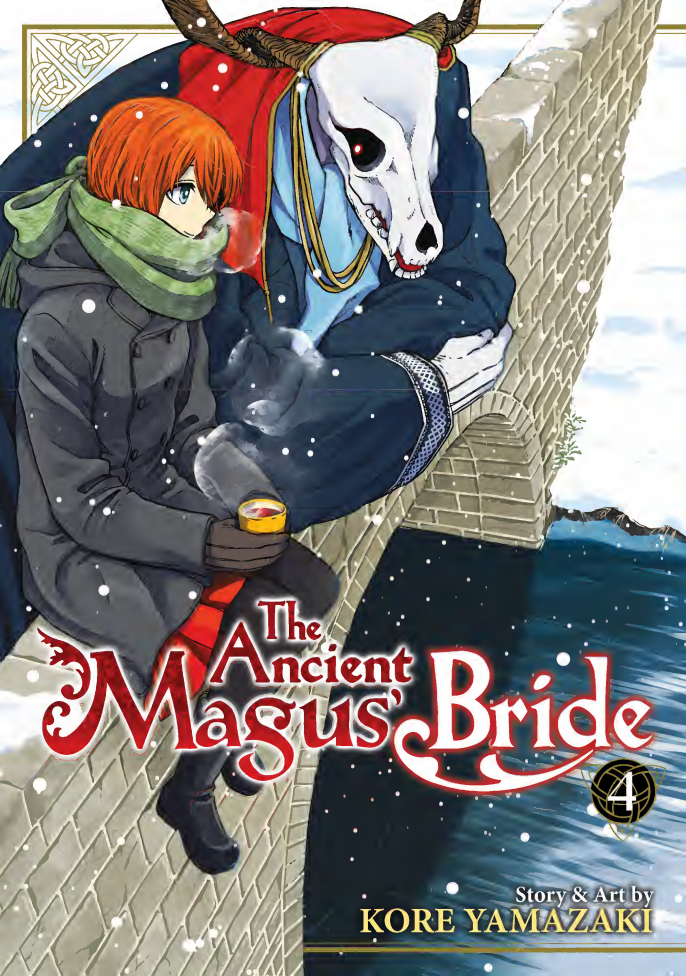




The Ancient Magus' Bride

4

Story & Art by
KORE YAMAZAKI

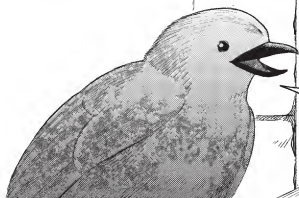


The
**Ancient
Magus' Bride**





YOU
WISH ME
TO SEND
CHISE
TO THE
COLLEGE
...?



For all young
folk with
magical or
alchemical
gifts to have
at least some
connection
here.

It's
considered
the wisest
course of
action...

REN-
FRED?

Hey!
Ains-
worth!

Ah!
Don't--!

LOOK, IF
YOU KEEP
HER STUCK
THERE
WITH YOU
ALL THE
TIME...

Sheesh

I don't
know
where you
heard this
"rumor"...

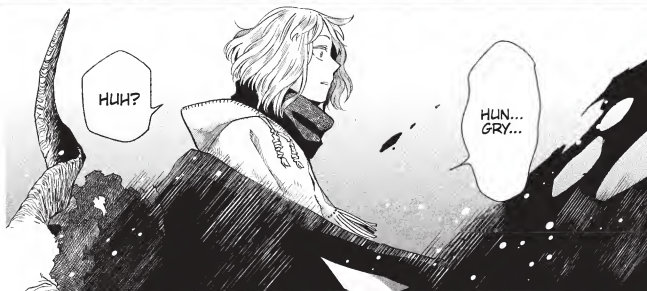
But what
my puppy
and I do is
not your
business.
Begone.

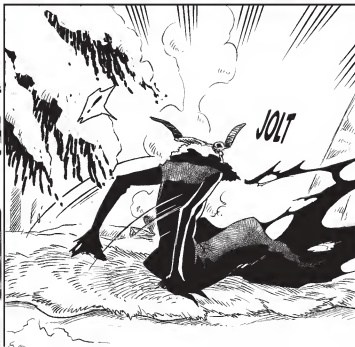
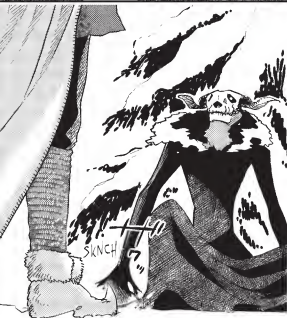
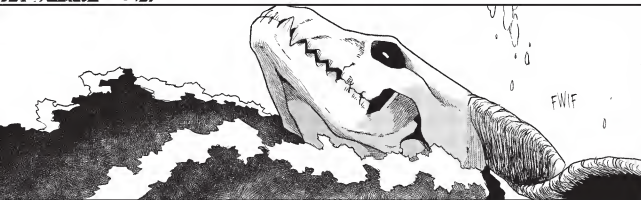
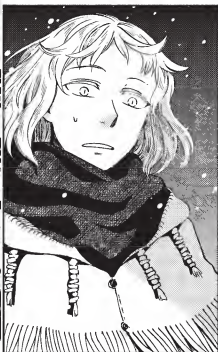


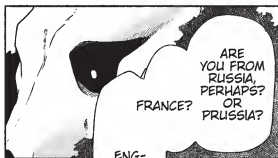
Chapter 16: Once bitten, twice shy.

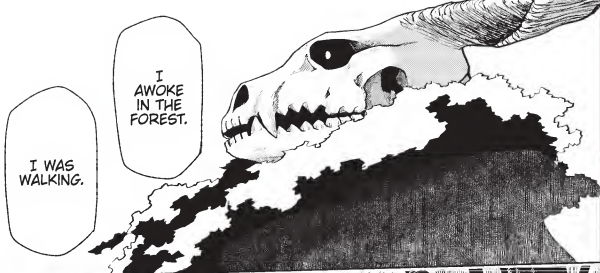


YOU'LL
RUIN
HER.









I WAS
WALKING.

I
AWOKE
IN THE
FOREST.



AND
WALKED.

AND
WALKED
...

I
WALKED
...

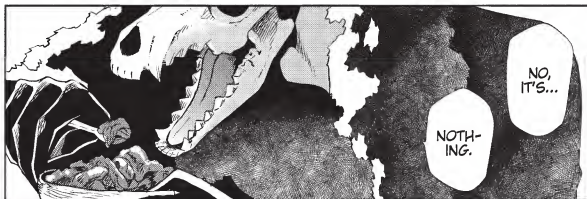


WHAT'S
WRONG?



I AM
TIRED.

NOW...



NOTHING.

NO,
IT'S...



I AM
UNSURE.
I KNOW
ONLY THAT
I WALKED
AND WALKED,
AVOIDING
HUMANS.
NOW I AM
HERE.

IS THERE
SOME-
WHERE
YOU WISH
TO GO?

HMM.



KLATR

AT A
GLANCE,
YOU SEEM
LIKE SOME
SORT OF
FAE CREATURE
...

BUT
YOU WEAR
FLESH,
LIKE A
LIVING
BEING.

WHAT
ARE
YOU?



LET'S PAY
A VISIT
TO MY
MASTER.

SHE'S
SOMETHING
OF A BUSY-
BODY, SO SHE
MAY SHOW
YOU HOW
TO CONDUCT
YOURSELF
PROPERLY.



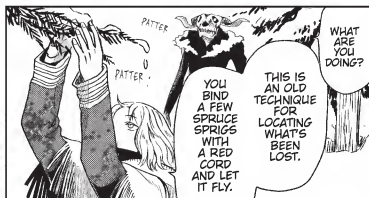
SKNCH

SKNCH



THIS LETS US BORROW A SMIDGE OF THEIR POWER TO ASK THE WAY.

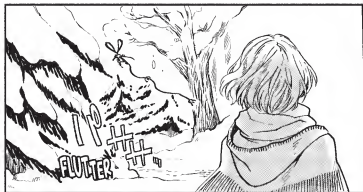
YOU SEE, FOREST SPIRITS DINE AT SPRUCE TREES.

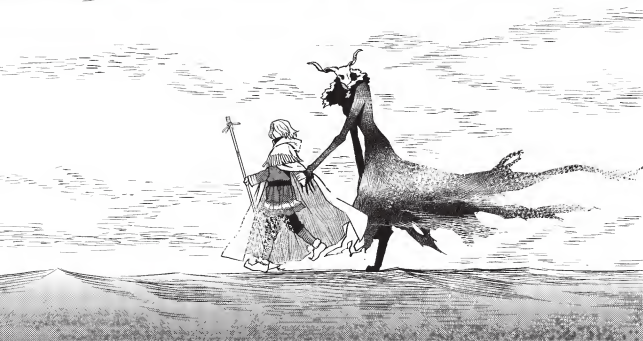
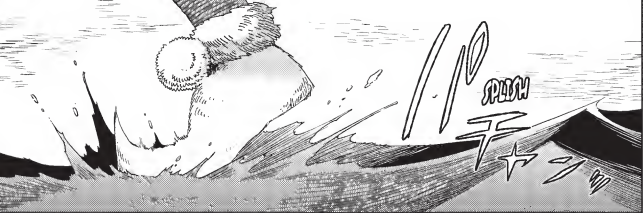


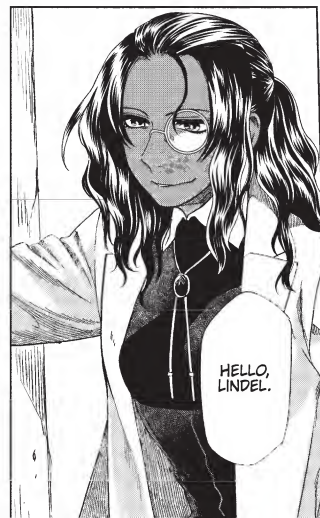
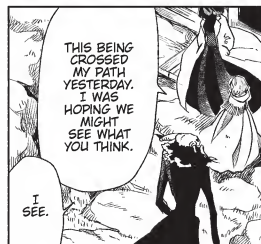
YOU BIND A FEW SPRUCE SPRIGS WITH A RED CORD AND LET IT FLY.

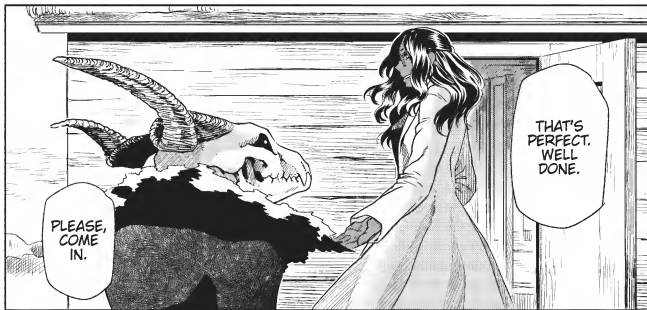
THIS IS AN OLD TECHNIQUE FOR LOCATING WHAT'S BEEN LOST.

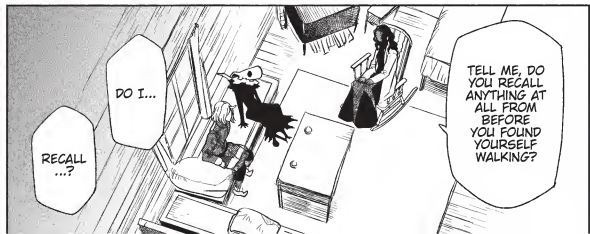
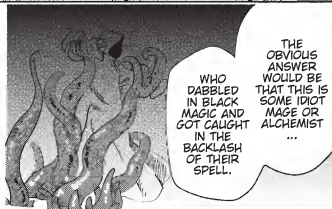
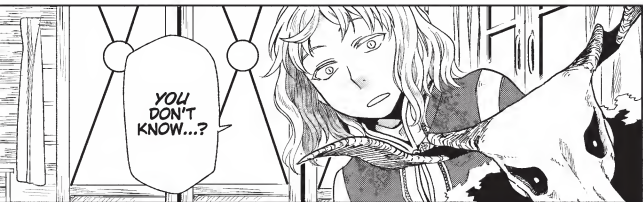
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?













RED.

IF
NOTHING
COMES
TO MIND,
DON'T TRY
TO PUSH
YOURSELF.

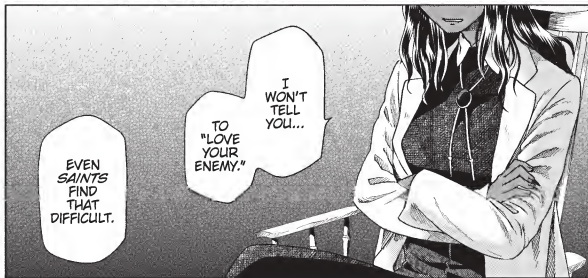
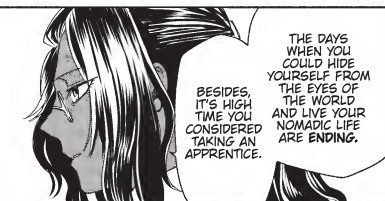
KREE

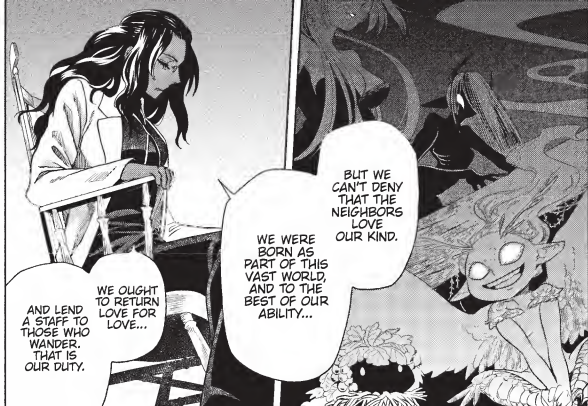
"RED"?

WHAT?!

TAKE OUR
MYSTERY
HERE UNDER
YOUR WING
FOR NOW,
WILL YOU?

LIN-
DEL.





AND LEND
A STAFF TO
THOSE WHO
WANDER.
THAT IS
OUR DUTY.

WE OUGHT
TO RETURN
LOVE FOR
LOVE...

WE WERE
BORN AS
PART OF THIS
VAST WORLD,
AND TO THE
BEST OF OUR
ABILITY...

BUT WE
CAN'T DENY
THAT THE
NEIGHBORS
LOVE
OUR KIND.

ALL OF
US ARE
CURSED.

WE
NEVER
ASKED
TO BE
LOVED!

YOU
AND
I...



IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.

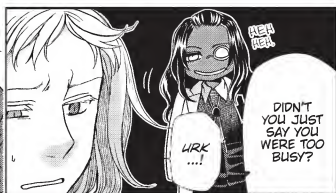
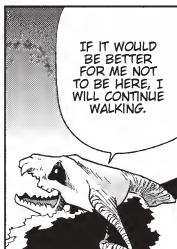
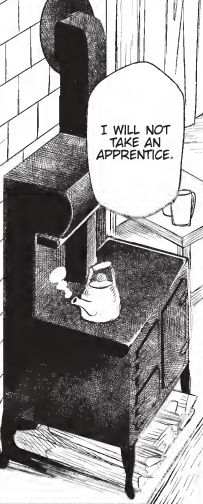
I'LL
MOVE
ON.

L20
Ttmp



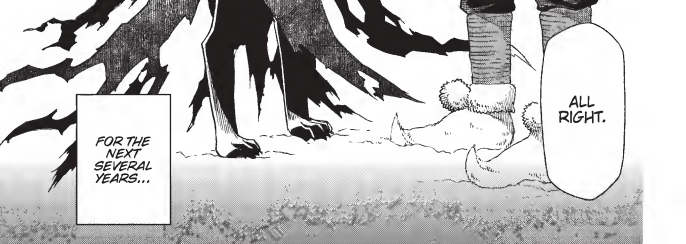
WHAT
MATTERS
IS HOW
YOU LOOK
AT THEM.

BLESS-
INGS AND
CURSES
ARE TWO
SIDES OF
ONE COIN,
LINDEL.



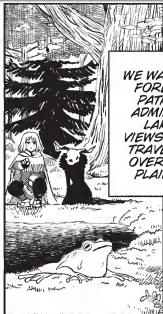
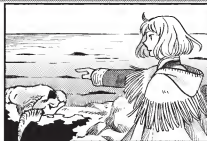






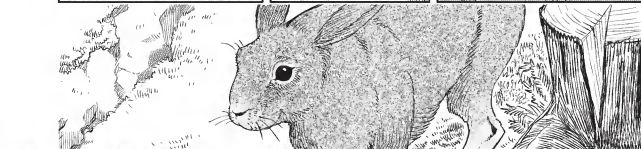
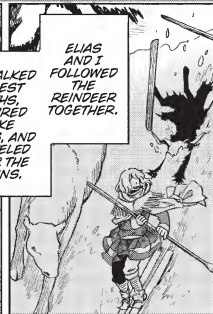
FOR THE
NEXT
SEVERAL
YEARS...

ALL
RIGHT.



ELIAS
AND I
FOLLOWED
THE
REINDEER
TOGETHER.

WE WALKED
FOREST
PATHS,
ADMIRING
LAKE
VIEWS, AND
TRAVELED
OVER THE
PLAINS.



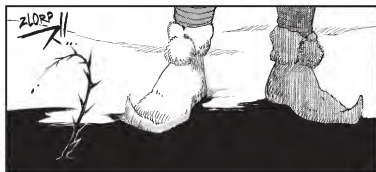
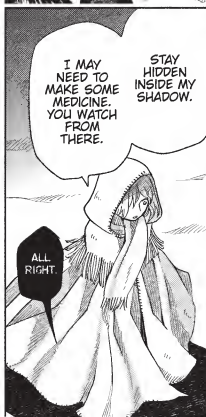
DON'T
TAKE
WHAT
YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
TO EAT.

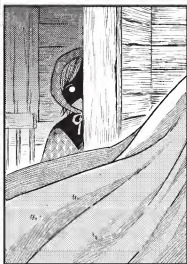
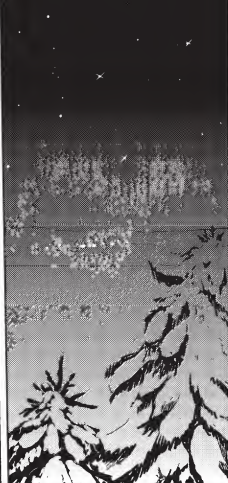
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?

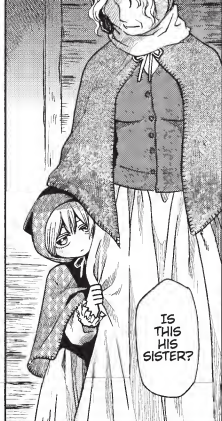


RSTL

HMM?







IS
THIS
HIS
SISTER?



KREAK



POOR
CHILD.

YOU'LL
BE WELL
SOON.
REST FOR
NOW.



THAT MAN
HAS A
THING
IN HIS
SHADOW.



DON'T
WORRY.
YOUR
BROTHER
WILL
SOON
BE--

LOOK!

IT'S
SCARY--!

SHOVE

DON'T
APOLO-
GIZE!

IT'S
NOT
YOUR
FAULT!

I'M
SORRY,
LINDEL.

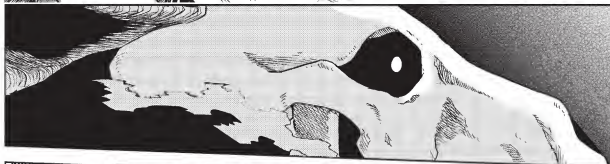
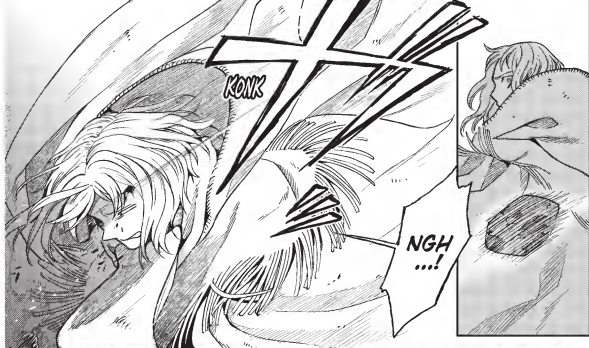
THERE
WAS A
CHILD
WITH THE
SIGHT
IN THE
HOUSE!
CURS-
ES!

DE-
MON!

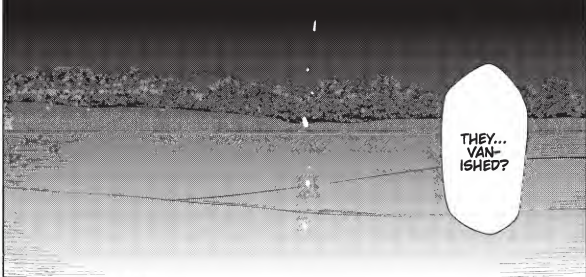
IT CAME
TO SPIRIT
OUR
CHILDREN
AWAY!

THAT
WAS A
MONSTER
POSING
AS A
SHAMAN!

MON-
STER!







THEY...
VAN-
ISHED?

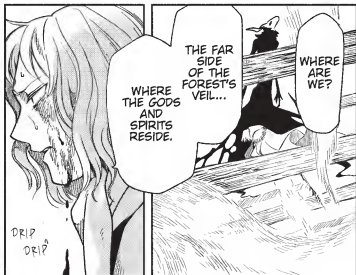
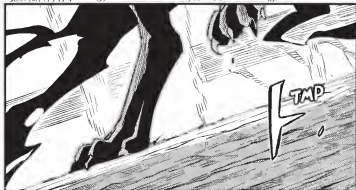


BUT THIS
IS NOT A
PLACE FOR
MORTALS
TO TREAD.

WHILE
HERE, WE
CAN'T BE
SEEN BY
HUMANS...

WE...

MUST
LEAVE
QUICKLY
...

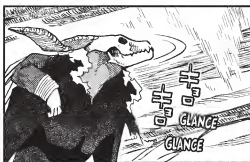
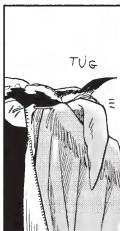


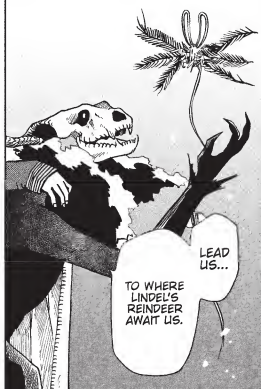
WHERE
THE GODS
AND
SPIRITS
RESIDE.

THE FAR
SIDE
OF THE
FOREST'S
VEIL...

WHERE
ARE
WE?

DRIP
DRIP





TO WHERE
LINDEL'S
REINDEER
AWAIT US.

LEAD
US...



GUIDE
US.

FLUTTER



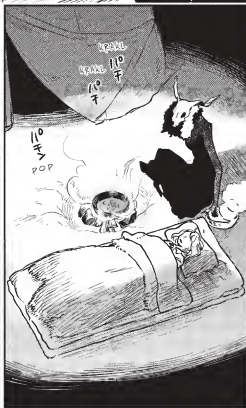
THE CANTRIP
I ONCE
SHOWED
HIM...



110
F
110
F
KRAK
KRAK



PLASH



110
F
208



YOU'RE
FAR
DEFTER
THAN I
THOUGHT.

WELL!



THANK
YOU,
ELIAS.



SCRAPE
SCRAPE

I'VE
SEEN YOU
DO IT
MORE
THAN ONCE.



I'M GLAD
YOU WERE
THERE.
YOU
SAVED
ME.



THAT'S
DIFFER-
ENT.

HAD I NOT
BEEN THERE,
YOU'D HAVE
HAD NO
TROUBLE TO
BEGIN WITH.

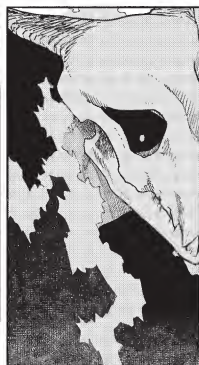


I...
I DO
NOT RE-
MEMBER
CLEARLY...



LINDEL.

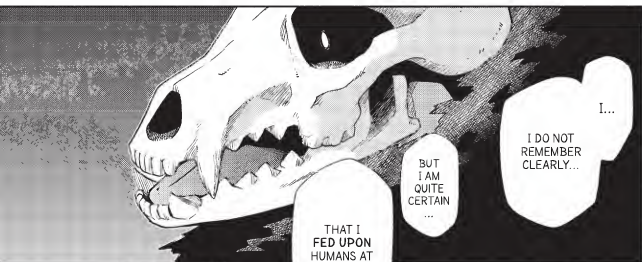
HM?





BUT I
AM QUITE
CERTAIN...

THAT I
FED UPON
HUMANS AT
ONE TIME.



I...

I DO NOT
REMEMBER
CLEARLY...

BUT
I AM
QUITE
CERTAIN
...

THAT I
FED UPON
HUMANS AT
ONE TIME.

THAT
IS...

Chapter 17: Lovers ever run before the clock.



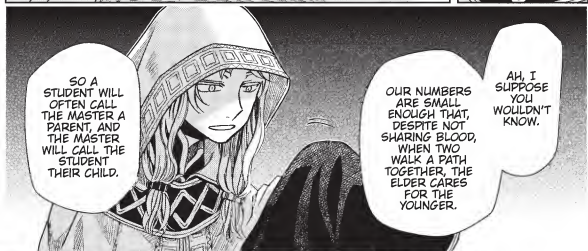
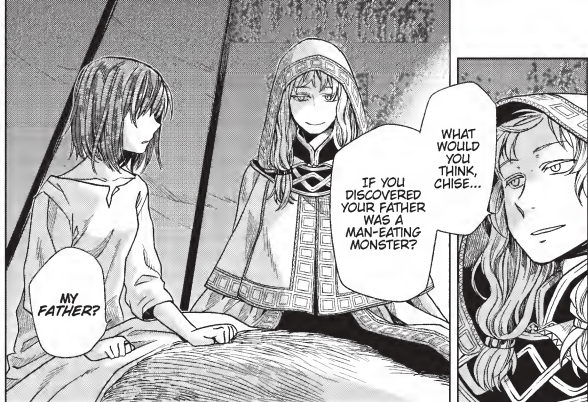
WHAT
HE
SAID
TO ME.

HE WAS
QUITE
BLUNT
ABOUT IT.



Chapter 17:

Lovers ever run before the clock.





I WAS
TERRI-
FIED.

AND
OTHERS
WOULD
STALK
ME FOR
HOURS.
EITHER
WAY...

SOME
OF THEM
WOULD
POUNCE
AT ME...



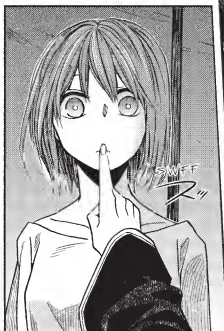
SOME OF
THEM SAID
HUMANS WERE
DELICIOUS--
OR
REVOLTING.

IN JAPAN,
THERE
WERE...LOTS
OF BEINGS
FROM THE
OTHER SIDE,
JUST LIKE
HERE.



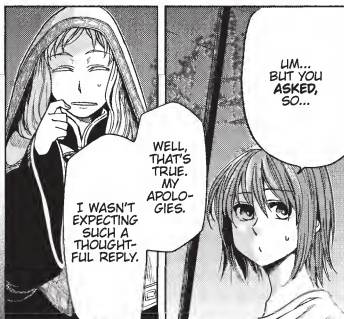
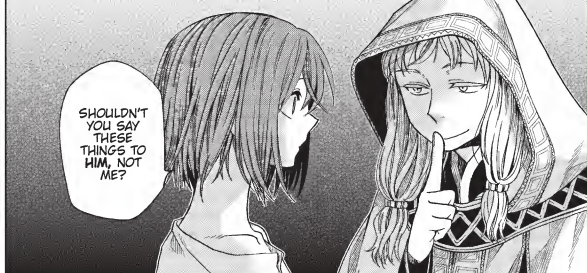
SO,
EVEN IF
HE SAYS
HE ATE
HUMANS
AT SOME
POINT, I--

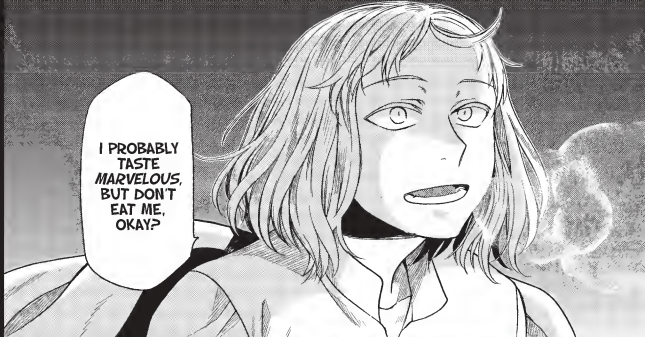
NOT A
SINGLE
TIME.



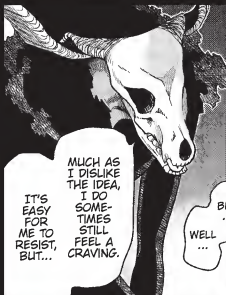
ELIAS
ISN'T
LIKE
THAT.

LOTS
OF FREAKY
THINGS HAVE
HAPPENED
SINCE I MET
HIM, BUT
HE'S NEVER
SCARED ME.





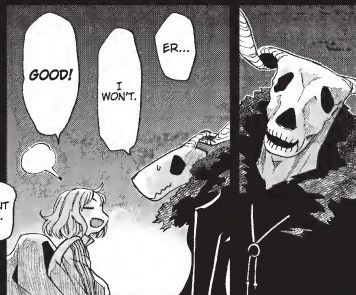
I PROBABLY
TASTE
MARVELOUS,
BUT DON'T
EAT ME,
OKAY?



IT'S
EASY
FOR
ME TO
RESIST,
BUT...

MUCH AS
I DISLIKE
THE IDEA,
I DO
SOME-
TIMES
STILL
FEEL A
CRAVING.

BUT
...
WELL
...



GOOD!

I
WON'T.

ER...



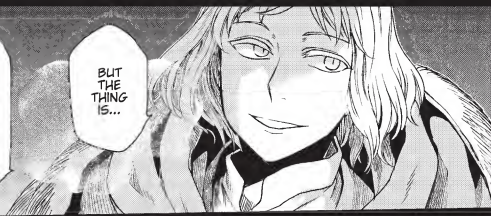
AH...

ORDINAR-
ILY, MOST
HUMANS
PROBABLY
WOULD.

THAT'S
A REA-
SON-
ABLE
QUES-
TION.



DON'T
HUMANS
FEAR AND
LOATHE
THINGS
LIKE ME,
BECAUSE
WE EAT
THEM....?



THERE ARE
COUNTLESS
THINGS
IN THE
WORLD
THAT FEED
ON US.

BUT
THE
THING
IS...



THEY
CAN BE
SENSITIVE
ABOUT TALK
OF BEING
EATEN, SO I
SUGGEST NOT
RAISING THE
SUBJECT.

THE
THING IS,
HUMANS
ARE BOTH
CRUELER
AND MORE
COWARDLY
THAN ANY
OTHER
LIVING
THING.



WOLVES EAT
REINDEER.
FOXES EAT
RABBITS. CATS
EAT MICE.

SOME PEOPLE
WORSHIP
BEARS AS
GODS, FOR
EXAMPLE--
EVEN THOUGH
BEARS EAT
HUMANS.



I...
SEE.

IT'S
THE WAY
OF THE
WORLD.
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THAT?

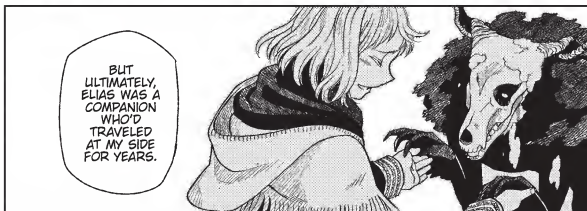
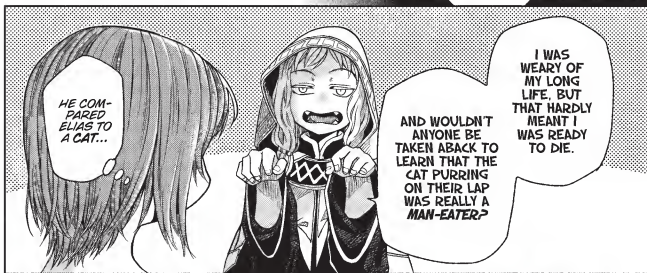
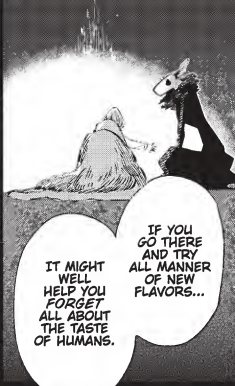


I HEAR
THERE'S NO
SNOW IN THE
SOUTH, SO
YOU CAN FIND
THINGS TO
EAT EVERY-
WHERE!

YOU OUGHT
TO TRAVEL
SOUTH
SOMEDAY!



OH, I
KNOW!





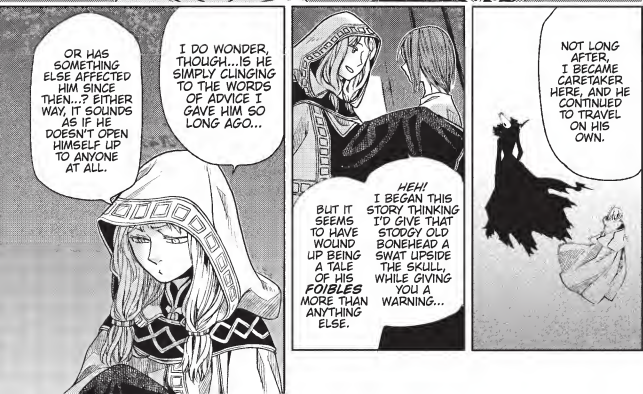
ANY TRACE
OF FEAR
VANISHED
WITH MY
FIRST
MOUTHFUL
OF THE
STEW HE'D
MADE ME.



I'M GLAD
HE HAS
SILKY AS
A HOUSE-
KEEPER
NOW...!

Too much salt.
The potatoes
were half-raw.
And it had
an incredible
stench.

WHICH,
I MIGHT
ADD, WAS
THE MOST
DISGUSTING
THING I'D
EVER
TASTED.



OR HAS
SOMETHING
ELSE AFFECTED
HIM SINCE
THEN...? EITHER
WAY, IT SOUNDS
AS IF HE
DOESN'T OPEN
HIMSELF UP
TO ANYONE
AT ALL.

I DO WONDER,
THOUGH...IS HE
SIMPLY CLINGING
TO THE WORDS
OF ADVICE I
GAVE HIM SO
LONG AGO...

HEH!
I BEGAN THIS
STORY THINKING
I'D GIVE THAT
STODGY OLD
BONEHEAD A
SWAT UPSIDE
THE SKULL,
WHILE GIVING
YOU A
WARNING...

NOT LONG
AFTER,
I BECAME
CARETAKER
HERE, AND HE
CONTINUED
TO TRAVEL
ON HIS
OWN.



YOU'RE
AS
BAD
AS
HE IS.

I SEE.
I'D SAY
YOU BOTH
NEED TO
BE MORE
FORTH-
COMING
WITH EACH
OTHER.

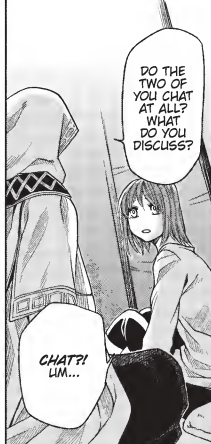
.....



TAP
TAP

SPEAK
TO HIM
AS YOU
SPOKE TO
ME TODAY.

BUT I
KNOW
YOU
HAVE IT
IN YOU.



DO THE
TWO OF
YOU CHAT
AT ALL?
WHAT
DO YOU
DISCUSS?

CHAT?!
UM...



YOU
OUGHT
TO HAVE
BEEN
ASLEEP
BY NOW.

NOW, I'M
SORRY
FOR NAT-
TERING
AT YOU
FOR SO
LONG.

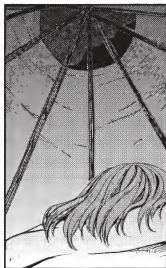


TELL
HIM THE
THINGS
YOU TOLD
ME.

BUT DO
REMEMBER
THAT, IN
SOME WAYS,
HE'S STILL
A CHILD
HIMSELF.



THAT
WASN'T
A
DREAM.



BUT I
GUESS I
LOOKED
TASTY
TO HIM?

HE TOLD
MASTER
LINDEL HE
DOESN'T
LIKE
EATING
HUMAN
MEAT...

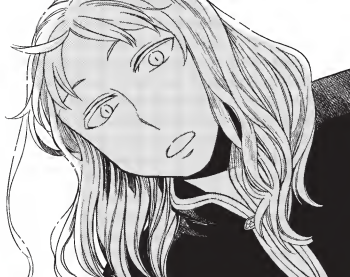


NOW I
KNOW
SOME-
THING...

THAT HE
DIDN'T
WANT
TO TALK
ABOUT...

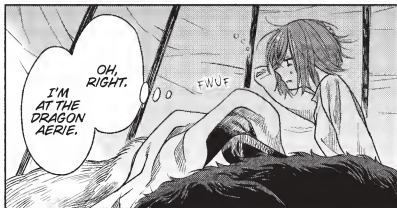


RISE
AND
SHINE!



OH,
RIGHT.
I'M
AT THE
DRAGON
AERIE.

FWUF

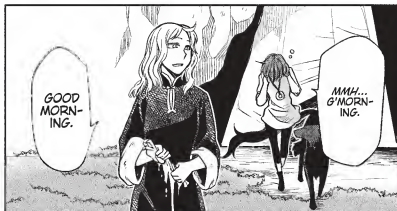


GO
RINSE
YOUR
FACE.

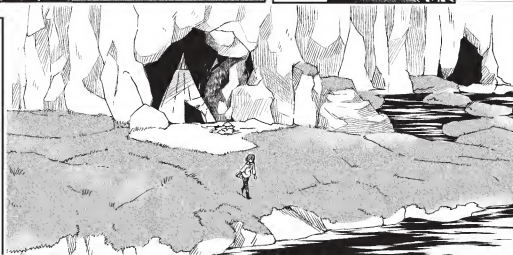


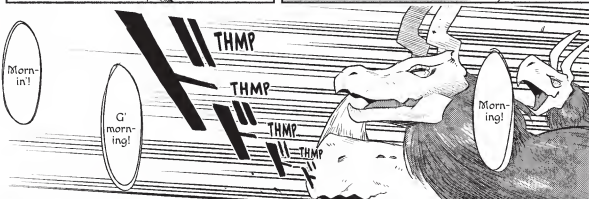
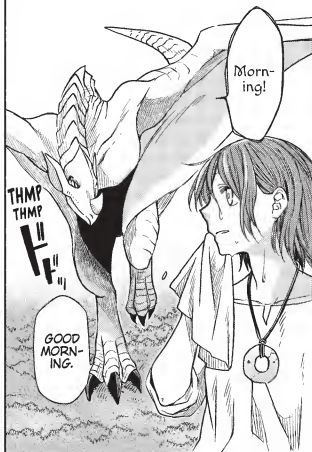
GOOD
MORN-
ING.

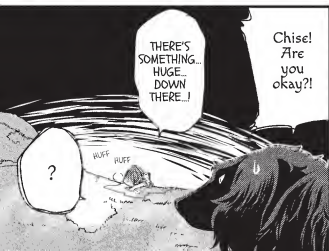
MMH...
G'MORN-
ING.



THMP
THMP





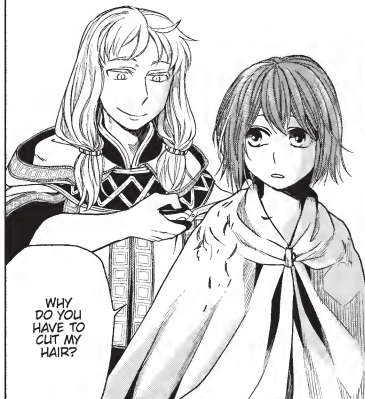


THERE'S
SOMETHING...
HUGE...
DOWN
THERE..!

Chise!
Are
you
okay?!

?

HUFF
HUFF



WHY
DO YOU
HAVE TO
CUT MY
HAIR?



IT'S BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE
MY HAIR
WAS THIS
SHORT.

IT'S BEEN
KNOWN
SINCE
ANCIENT
TIMES THAT
MAGIC
RESIDES
IN ONE'S
HAIR.
THESE
CLIPPINGS
WILL BE
THE CORE
OF YOUR
WAND.



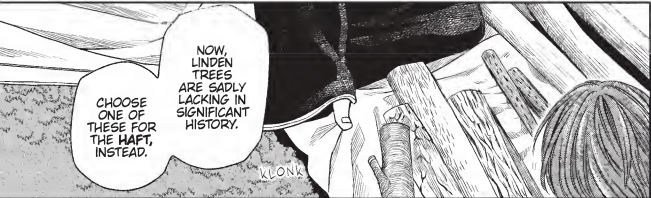
RED IS THE
COLOR OF
THE EARTH
ITSELF, AND
OF THE FIRE
THAT BURNS
WITHIN IT--
AND OF THE
BLOOD IN
OUR OWN
VEINS.



BUT
IT'S THE
PERFECT
COLOR
FOR A
MAGE!

OTHER FOLK
HAVE OFTEN
FEARED THE
RED-HAIRED
AS WITCHES,
OR CALLED
THEM SOUL-
LESS...

RED HAIR
LIKE
YOURS IS
UNUSUAL
IN ALL
CORNERS
OF THE
WORLD.



CHOOSE
ONE OF
THESE FOR
THE HAFT,
INSTEAD.

NOW,
LINDEN
TREES
ARE SADLY
LACKING IN
SIGNIFICANT
HISTORY.

KLONK

STURDY
ROWAN HAS
A POWERFUL
LIFE FORCE
THAT CAN
SUBJUGATE
ANY FAE
CREATURE.

BLESSED
HAZEL
WARDS
OFF ALL
MISFOR-
TUNE.

DARK
ELDERBERRY
IS THE TREE
THAT KNOCKS
ON THE DOOR
OF A DARK
GODDESS.

ETERNAL
YEW IS A
SYMBOL OF
THE AGES,
BELOVED OF
MAGIC AND
YET CAPABLE
OF BANISH-
ING IT.

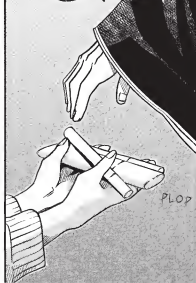
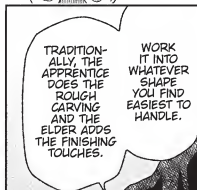
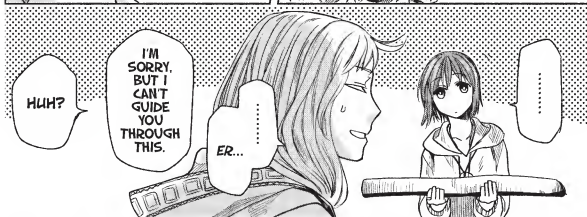
GHOSTLY
WILLOW
STANDS
TWIXT THE
WORLDS OF
THE LIVING
AND THE
DEAD.

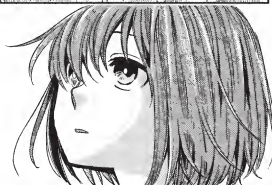
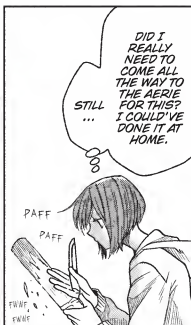
BUT AS
THIS IS A
VOLCANIC
ISLAND,
WE'VE NO
LACK OF
FIRE SPIRITS
TO ASK FOR
ASSISTANCE.

WOOD IS
DIFFICULT
TO WORK
WHILST IT
IS STILL
GREEN.

AH,
I ASKED
THAT ONE
TO DRY
OUT THE
WOOD.

THAT'S
THE SAME
SPRITE
I SAW
WHEN I
ARRIVED.





HE SAID I SHOULD...

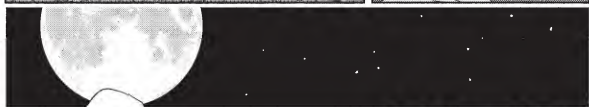
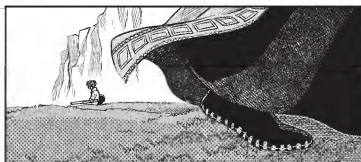
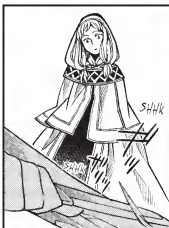
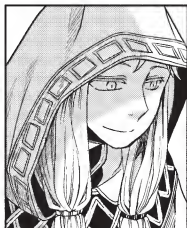
TALK TO...



Oh no, you don't. You have to talk to yourself.







JOIT





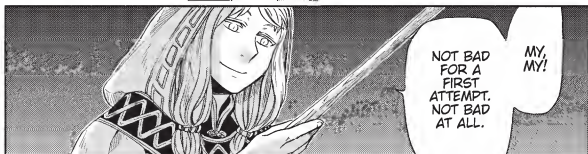
HUH?

O-OH,
UM...YEAH.
ALMOST
DONE.



THAT
WAS
SOME
ADMI-
RABLE
FOCUS.
YOU'RE
NEARLY
FINISHED!

WSH



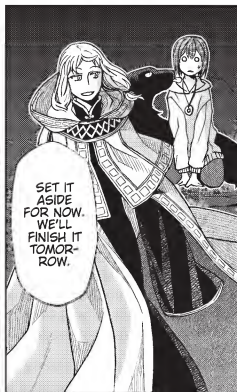
NOT BAD
FOR A
FIRST
ATTEMPT.
NOT BAD
AT ALL.

MY,
MY!



THERE'S
SOME-
THING
I'D LIKE
TO SHOW
YOU.

THE
MOON IS
BRIGHT
TONIGHT.



SET IT
ASIDE
FOR NOW.
WE'LL
FINISH IT
TOMOR-
ROW.

FLOW-
ERS?

SEE THIS
MOSS?
FLOWERS
BLOSSOM
FROM IT.

IT'S
"ECHOS,"
RIGHT...?

ARE YOU
AWARE
OF MY
OTHER
NAME?

AND
WHERE
ELVES
DANCE,
FLOWERS
BLOOM.

THIS IS A
BELOVED
DWELLING
PLACE OF
ELVES...

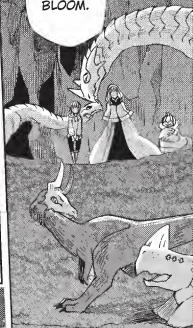
ALL
OF MY
CHANTS
ARE
SONGS.

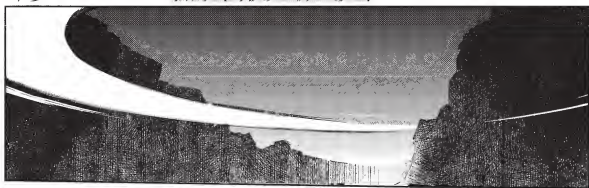
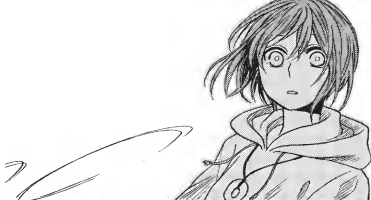
IN DAYS
OF OLD,
PEOPLE
COMMUN-
ICATED
THROUGH
SONG.

TYPICALLY,
OUR NAME
SPRINGS
FROM A
TRUTH ABOUT
US, OR A
TRAIT, AND
SO OTHERS
OF OUR KIND
ADDRESS
US.

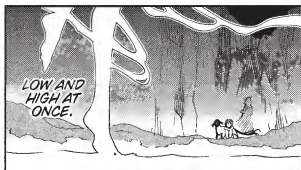
JUST SO.
NAMES
ARE **VERY**
IMPORTANT
TO BOTH
MAGES AND
ALCHEMISTS.

TONIGHT, I
WILL HAVE
FLOWERS
BLOOM
IN YOUR
HONOR.





SOME-
HOW
BOTH...



LOW AND
HIGH AT
ONCE.

THE
MELTING
OF A
GLACIER.

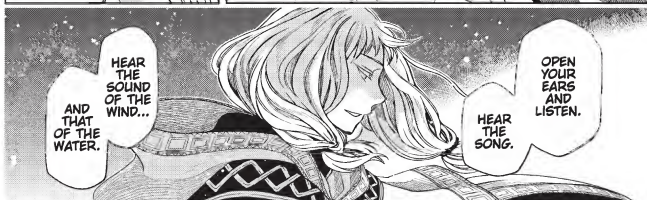


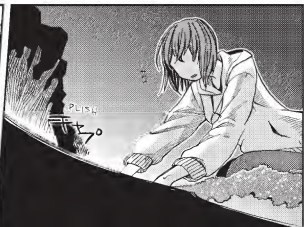
THE
SONG
SOUNDED
LIKE...



THE NOTES
RESONATED
ON THE WIND,
AS CLEAR AS
COLD SPRING
WATER.











Did something happen?

You look... weirdly *somber* or something.

YES?



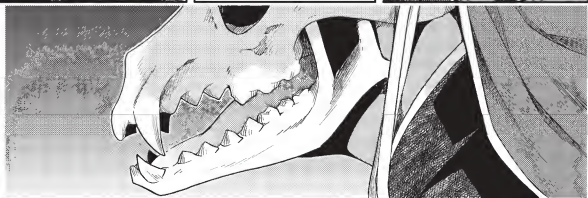
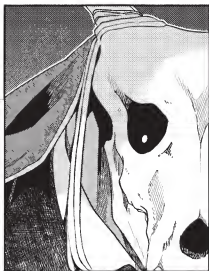
Oh, uh... okay.

THE MAGIC OF HIS SONG MUST HAVE CONNECTED OUR LOCATIONS.

WELL, NO WONDER, THEN.



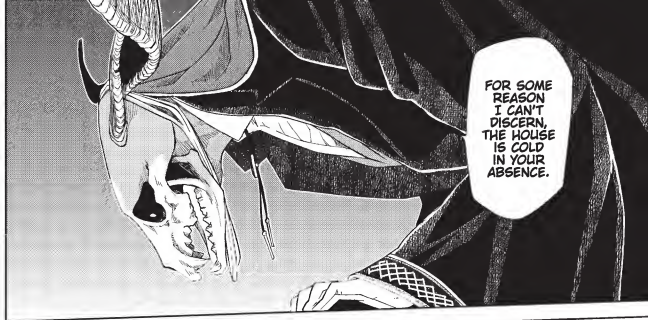
ELIAS ?



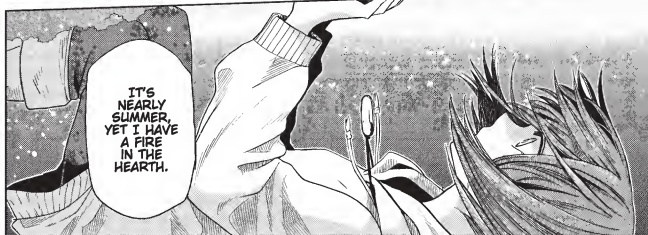
ARE YOU OKAY?!

WHAT ?!

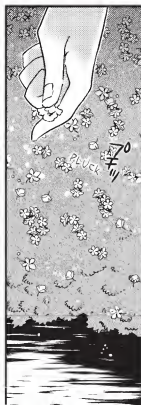
You might say that, yes.



FOR SOME
REASON
I CAN'T
DISCERN,
THE HOUSE
IS COLD
IN YOUR
ABSENCE.



IT'S
NEARLY
SUMMER,
YET I HAVE
A FIRE
IN THE
HEARTH.

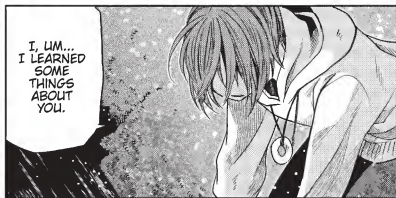
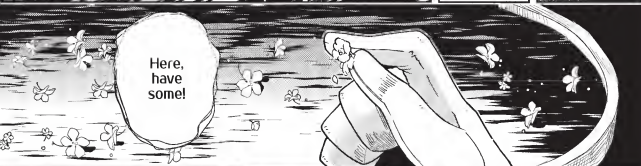


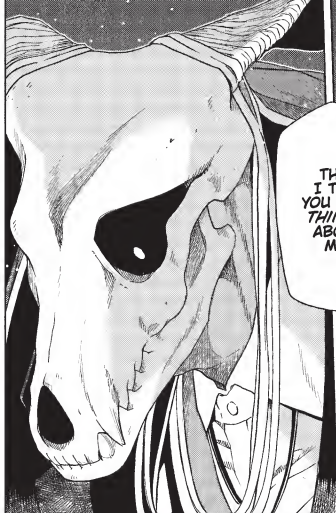
Tell me
about them
when
you come
home.

I WISH
I COULD
SHOW
THEM TO
YOU.

THE
FLOW-
ERS
HERE...
ARE
BEAUTI-
FUL.







THAT
I TELL
YOU NEW
THINGS
ABOUT
ME.

IT'S
ONLY
FAIR...

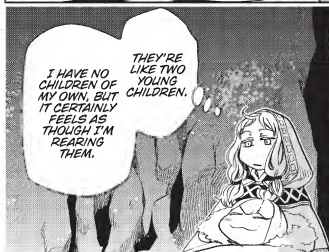


OKAY.

Silky
seems
terribly
bored
without
you here.

Yes,
please
do.

ONCE MY
WAND'S
FINISHED,
I'LL COME
STRAIGHT
HOME.



I HAVE NO
CHILDREN OF
MY OWN, BUT
IT CERTAINLY
FEELS AS
THOUGH I'M
REARING THEM.

THEY'RE
LIKE TWO
YOUNG
CHILDREN.



...



THE OTHER
MAGES
STILL WOULD
NOT STOP
NAGGING ME
TO TRAIN A
SUCCESSOR.

ALTHOUGH
I MYSELF
AM NOT
HUMAN...

Chapter 18: Better to ask the way than go astray.

ALL I SOUGHT
WAS A
CONVENIENT
HUMAN TO
PLAY AT
BEING MY
APPRENTICE.



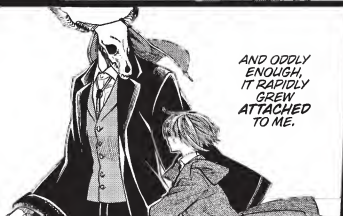
AND THAT
WOULD
BE THAT.

I OFTEN
THOUGHT OF
HUMANS AS A
HASSLE OR AN
ANNOYANCE,
BUT I WAS
CURIOUS ABOUT
HOW THEIR
MINDS WORK.

SO I
THOUGHT
I'D BUY A
RANDOM
HUMAN
AND
OBSERVE
IT FOR A
TIME...



BUT THEN,
I CAME
ACROSS A
TRULY RARE
SPECIMEN...



AND ODDLY
ENOUGH,
IT RAPIDLY
GREW
ATTACHED
TO ME.





BUT
IT...

NO--SHE
DOES NOT
SPEAK
MUCH.



EACH
TIME
I SEE
THAT...



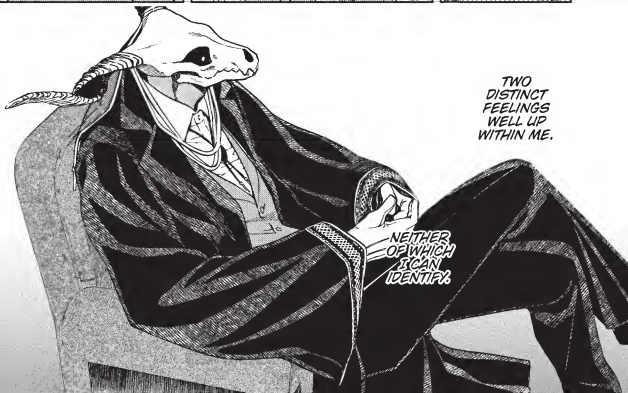
SHE
SOMETIMES
OPENS HER
MOUTH...



THEN
QUICKLY
CLOSES IT
WITHOUT
SAYING A
WORD.



GOAT-LIKE BEING IS NOT
ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE
WHO CAN SPEAK
EASILY. INSTEAD, IT SPEAKS
WHEN IT FEELS THE NEED TO.



TWO
DISTINCT
FEELINGS
WELL UP
WITHIN ME.

NEITHER
OF WHICH
I CAN
IDENTIFY.

Chapter 18:

Better to ask the way than go astray.







I ARRIVED
AS YOU
DOZED OFF.

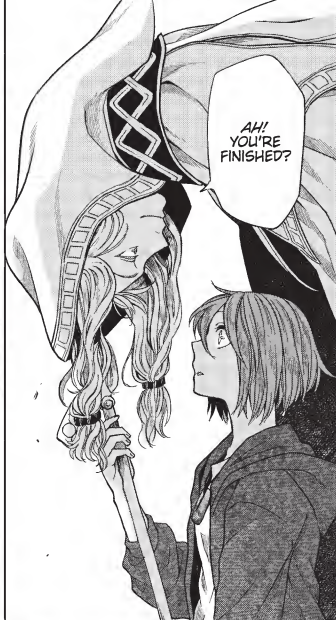
MASTER
LINDEL!
H-HOW
LONG HAVE
YOU BEEN
THERE?

EEEP!

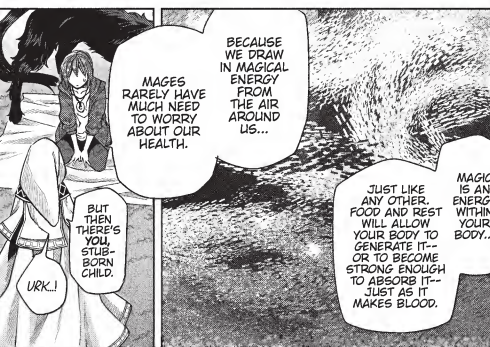


THAT'S
WHY THE
OBJECTS
A MAGE
CREATES
WILL
ALWAYS BE
A SOURCE
OF POWER
FOR THEM.

YOU BECOME
SLEEPY AS
YOU WORK
BECAUSE
YOU'RE UN-
CONSCIOUSLY
EXPENDING
MAGIC.



AH!
YOU'RE
FINISHED?



MAGES
RARELY HAVE
MUCH NEED
TO WORRY
ABOUT OUR
HEALTH.

BECAUSE
WE DRAW
IN MAGICAL
ENERGY FROM
THE AIR
AROUND US...

BUT THEN
THERE'S
YOU
STUBBORN
CHILD.

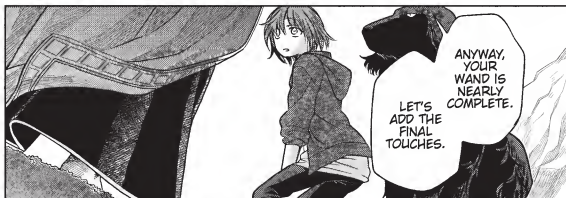
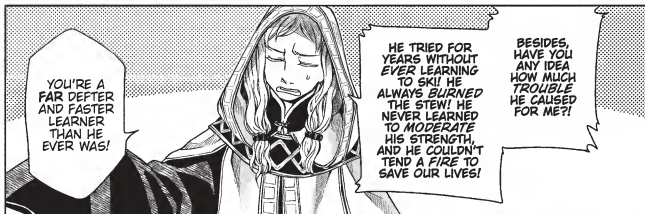
URK...!

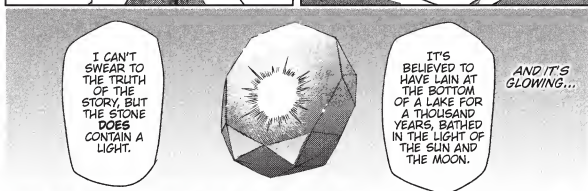
JUST LIKE
ANY OTHER.
FOOD AND REST
WILL ALLOW
YOUR BODY TO
GENERATE IT--
OR TO BECOME
STRONG ENOUGH
TO ABSORB IT--
JUST AS IT
MAKES BLOOD.

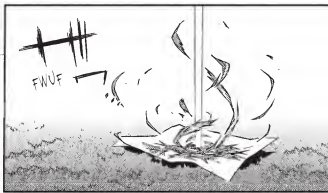
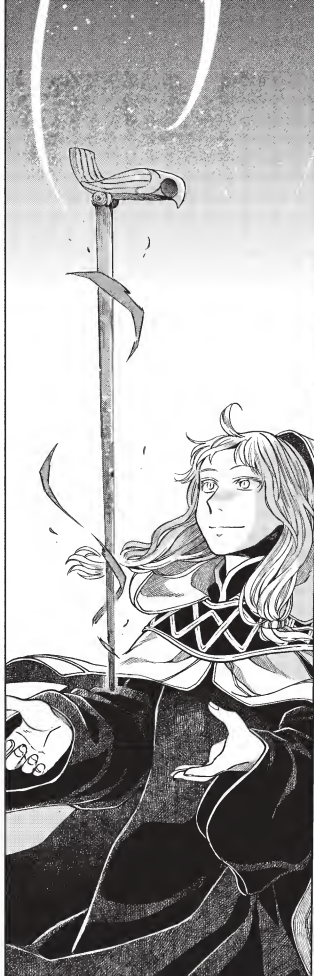
SO
THAT'S
WHAT
SIMON
MEANT...

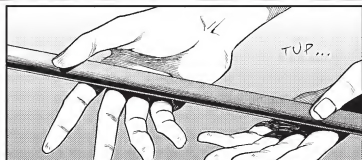
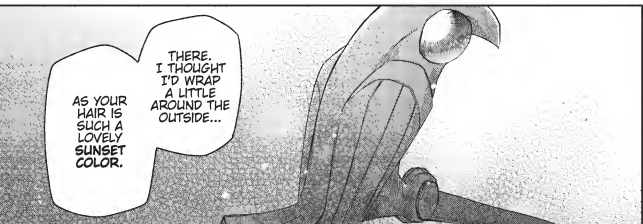
MAGIC
IS AN
ENERGY
WITHIN
YOUR
BODY...

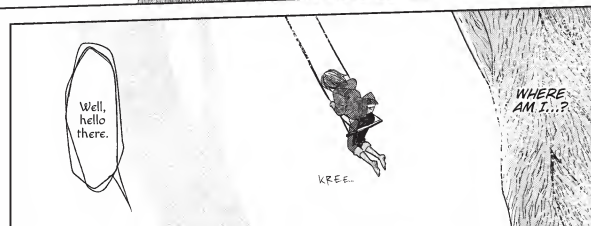














It's
been a
while...

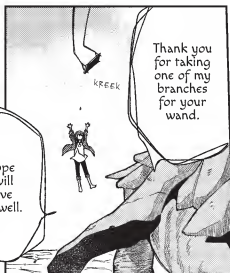
Little
hatchling
mage.



I'LL TAKE
EXCELLENT
CARE
OF IT.

GRSH...

I hope
it will
serve
you well.



KREEK

Thank you
for taking
one of my
branches
for your
wand.



HOW COME
WE'RE HERE?
AND HOW
CAN WE BE
TOGETHER?

WHAT
IS THIS
PLACE?



YOU...!



When you
accepted my
branch for your
wand, a bond
formed between
us. I called
you here.

GRK
GRSH



This
is an
interstice.

The
traveler
and the
one
whose
journey
is
over...

Those
who live
on one
side of
the veil,
and those
who have
passed
beyond it...

At this
crossroads,
two who
might
otherwise
be parted
forever are
permitted
to meet.



I am
deceased.
My eyes
are no
more.

I see
only through
your
living
eyes.

DOES
IT LOOK
DIFFERENT
TO YOU?



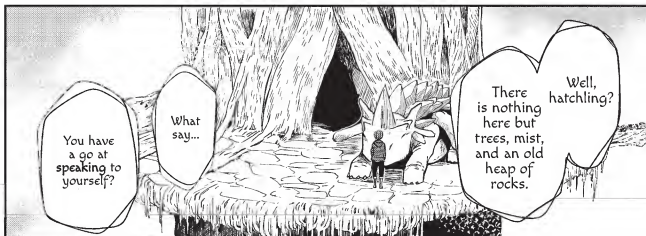
So,
this is
how your
mind
perceives
it?

It's
lovely.



Although,
perhaps
less so than
when last
we met.

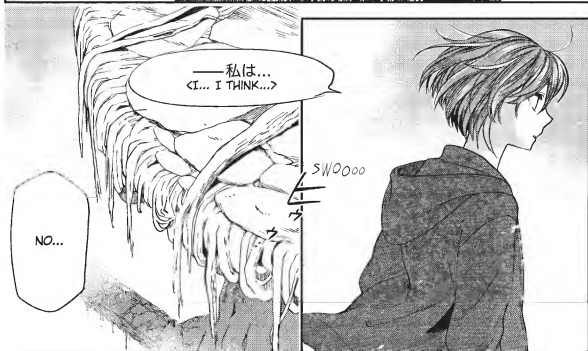
Your face
still carries
a certain
melancholy,
Chise...



You have
a go at
speaking to
yourself?

What
say...

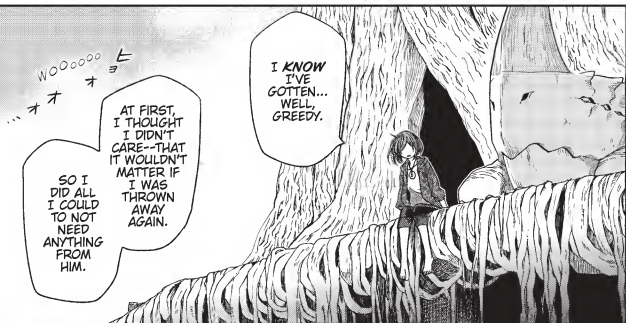
Well,
hatchling?
There
is nothing
here but
trees, mist,
and an old
heap of
rocks.



—私は...
<I... I THINK...>

NO...

SWOooo



I KNOW
I'VE
GOTTEN...
WELL,
GREEDY.

AT FIRST,
I THOUGHT
I DIDN'T
CARE--THAT
IT WOULDN'T
MATTER IF
I WAS
THROWN
AWAY
AGAIN.

SO I
DID ALL
I COULD
TO NOT
NEED
ANYTHING
FROM
HIM.



MAYBE I WAS
HIS GUINEA
PIG, BUT HE
SAID I COULD
STAY WITH
HIM.

AND BECAUSE
IT DIDN'T SEEM
LIKE HE CARED
ONE WAY OR
THE OTHER
ABOUT ME,
I RELAXED.



THAT I WAS
CREEPY OR
GROSS THAN
OF BEING
ABANDONED.

I WAS
ALWAYS
MORE
FRIGHTENED
OF BEING
TOLD...



BUT
BEFORE
I KNEW
IT...

AND HIS
REFUSAL
TO
OPEN UP
STARTED
TO
BOTHER
ME.

ELIAS'
SILENCE
...

EVEN IF
IT WAS AN
ACT, HE
CALLED ME
FAMILY.





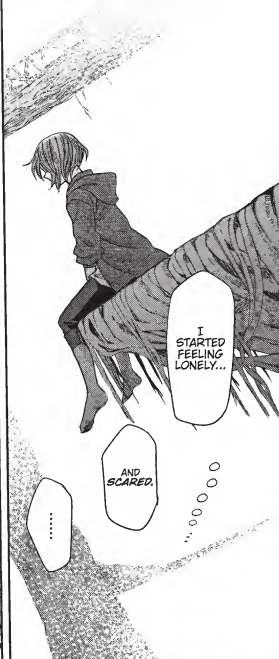
I...WISH
I COULD
HAVE
STAYED
DETACHED.



GRSH...

AND I
WOULDN'T
BE AFRAID
OF GETTING
KICKED OUT.
I'D KNOW I
COULD JUST
MOVE ON.

THEN I
WOULDN'T
BE
DISSATISFIED
WITH HOW
THINGS
ARE
NOW...



I
STARTED
FEELING
LONELY...

AND
SCARED.

...

...



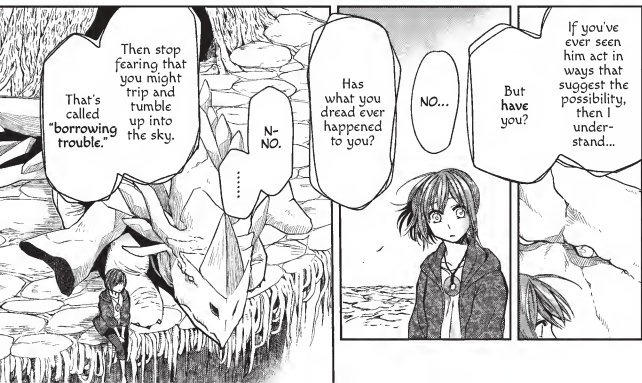
I beg your
pardon. I
know it's
gauche to
respond when
someone is
speaking
aloud to
themselves...

...?



Seem the
sort to
abruptly
drive you
from
your nest?

But does
this Elias
really...



That's
called
"borrowing
trouble."

Then stop
fearing that
you might
trip and
tumble
up into the sky.

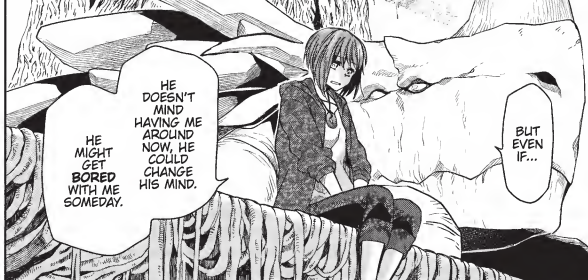
N-
NO.

Has
what you
dread ever
happened
to you?

NO...

But
have
you?

If you've
ever seen
him act in
ways that
suggest the
possibility,
then I
under-
stand...



HE
MIGHT
GET
BORED
WITH ME
SOMEDAY.

HE
DOESN'T
MIND
HAVING ME
AROUND
NOW, HE
COULD
CHANGE
HIS MIND.

BUT
EVEN
IF...



For
now...

I cannot
say if
this
tendency
of yours...

Or if it
is a
legacy
from your
mother.

Is some-
thing
you were
born
with...



AND...
AND IF
EVEN ELIAS
DIDN'T
NEED ME
ANYMORE,
I--



Why
must
you
always--

No.

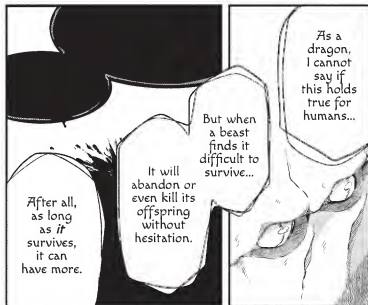


I think it is
my turn to
speak to
the wind.

GRISH



I am grateful to the parents of this young hatchling called Chise.



After all, as long as *it* survives, it can have more.

It will abandon or even kill its offspring without hesitation.

But when a beast finds it difficult to survive...

As a dragon, I cannot say if this holds true for humans...

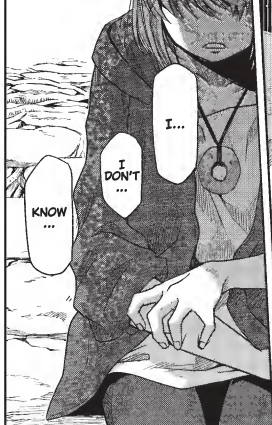


Why might that have been?

Yet Chise's mother took her hands from her child's throat.



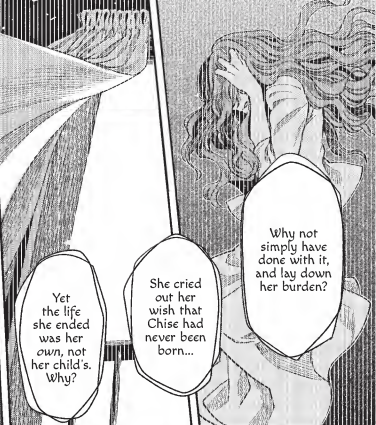
WHA ...?



KNOW
...

I DON'T
...

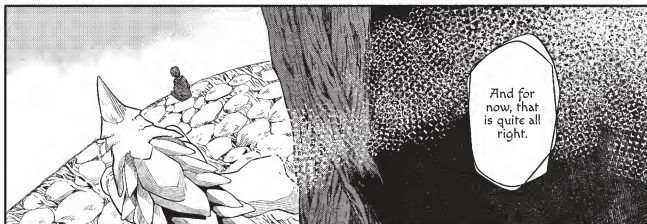
I...



Why not
simply have
done with it,
and lay down
her burden?

She cried
out her
wish that
Chise had
never been
born...

Yet
the life
she ended
was her
own, not
her child's.
Why?

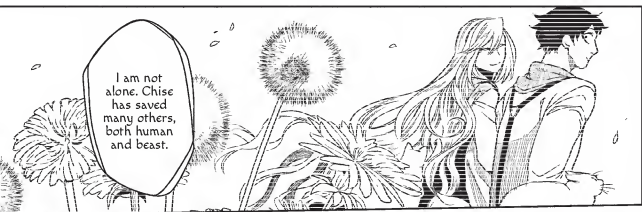


And for
now, that
is quite all
right.



I was
able to take
flight one
last time
before I
passed.

.....
Thanks
to
Chise...





Therefore,
your parents
have my
gratitude
for choosing
to preserve
your life...

And I wish
that you
might take
a little more
pride in
yourself.

Pride
for
having
the
strength...

To reach
out your
hand to
another.

And
yet...

A few kind
words or
an offered
hand can be
enough to
save another
creature.

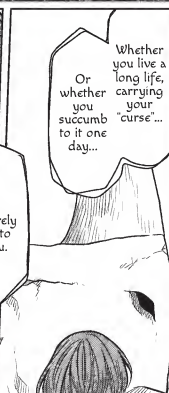
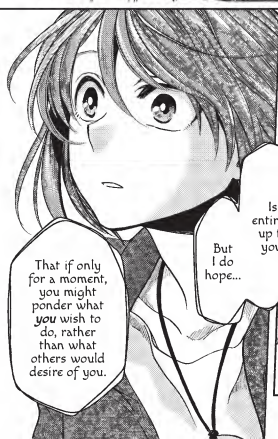


My thanks.
It was a gift
from Lindel.
I think it's
rather
splendid.

Ahh.
You'll
say my
name
now,
hmm?

NEVIN
...

G/S4



You will *fly*,
in the truest
sense of the
word, to the
very ends of
your world.

And I
pray that
someday...

FWISH

SWOO
///
THE MIST
IS GETTING
THICKER...

OOO
/// ...

NEVIN
...?

And its
path will
someday
lead it
back to the
heart of
the stars.

That branch
was born
from the soil
where the
earth itself
begins...

Your
wand
is my branch.

The way
is
closing.

And it will
always light
your way,
wherever
you choose
to walk.

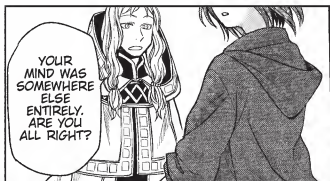
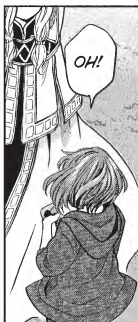
It can
go any
where...

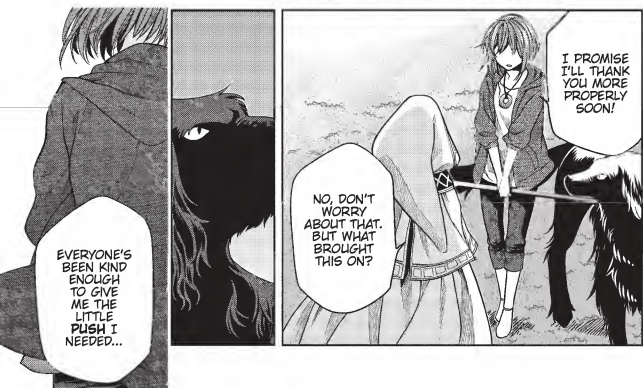


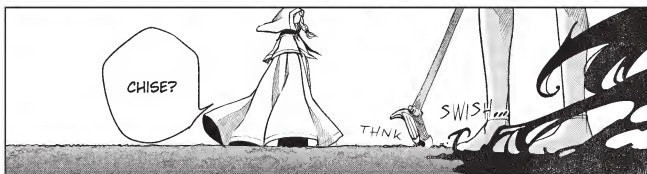
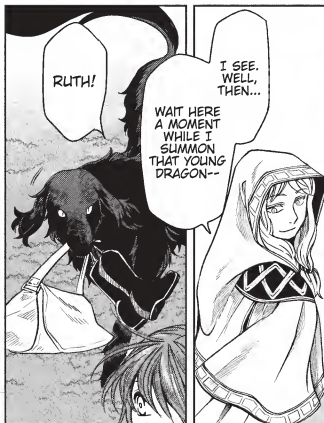
CHISE!

...SE
...?

CHISE
...



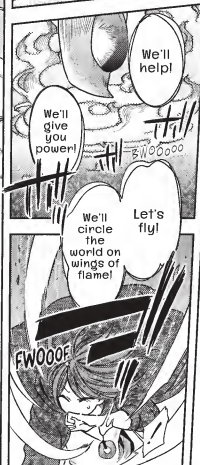






TO
HIM
NOW.

TAKE
ME...



We'll
give
you
power!

We'll
help!

We'll
circle
the
world on
wings of
flame!

Let's
fly!

FWOOOF



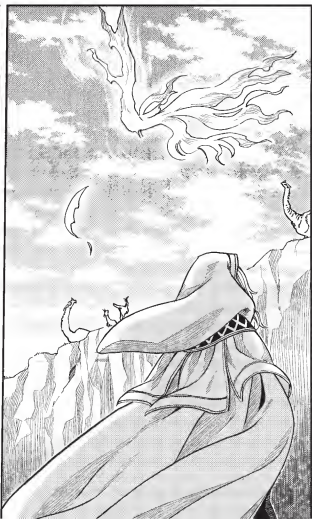
You
wanna
go?

You
should
fly!



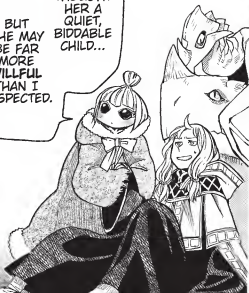


STARS
IN
HEAV-
EN!



I
THOUGHT
HER A
QUIET,
BIDDABLE
CHILD...

BUT
SHE MAY
BE FAR
MORE
WILLFUL
THAN I
SUSPECTED.





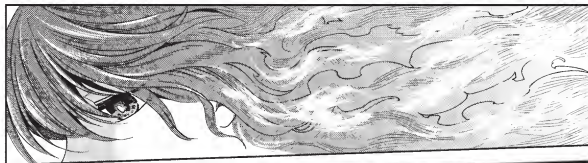
THAT'S
GOING
HOME.

ONLY
ONE
PLACE
TO GO...



BUT...

THERE'S
ONLY ONE
PLACE I
WANT
TO GO.



THAT I
COULD GO
ANYWHERE.

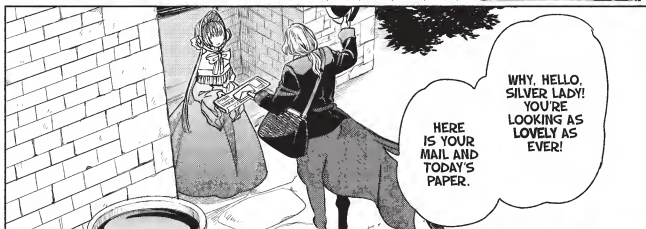
WHEN HE
SAID...

I THINK
NEVIN WAS
BEING
LITERAL...



GOOD DAY!
YOUR MAIL!

NOK
NOK
NOK



WHY, HELLO,
SILVER LADY!
YOU'RE
LOOKING AS
LOVELY AS
EVER!

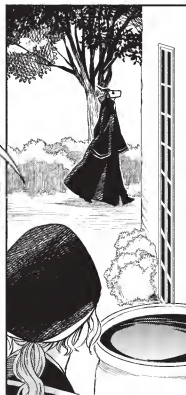
HERE
IS YOUR
MAIL AND
TODAY'S
PAPER.

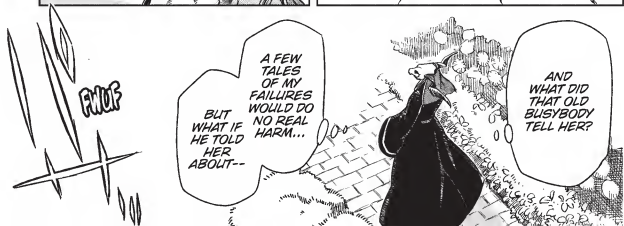
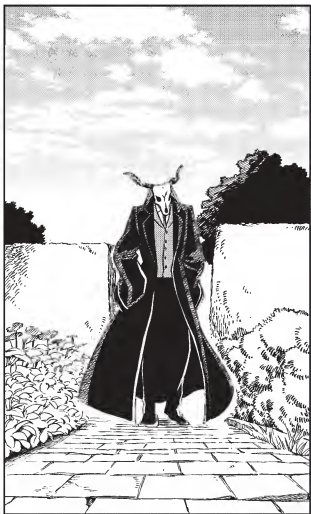
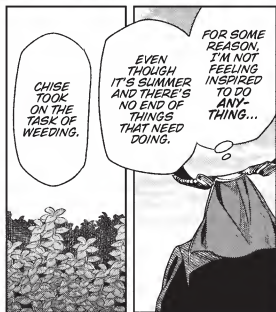


MY, MY!
THE
GOOD
MAGUS
SEEMS
A TAD
OUT OF
SORTS.



GOOD DAY,
MASTER
THORN!
AND WHAT
A SPLENDID
DAY IT IS!









BUT
THE
SPRITES
...

I MEANT
TO USE THE
SPELL YOU
CAST TO
BRING ME
HERE
ORIGINALLY...

UM...



WHAT
IN THE
WORLD
WAS THAT
SPELL?!



CHISE
...?!



LOOK! IT'S
MY WAND!
MASTER
LINDEL PUT
ON THE
FINISHING
TOUCHES,
AND--



AND
USED
A REAL
SPELL
TO COME
BACK.

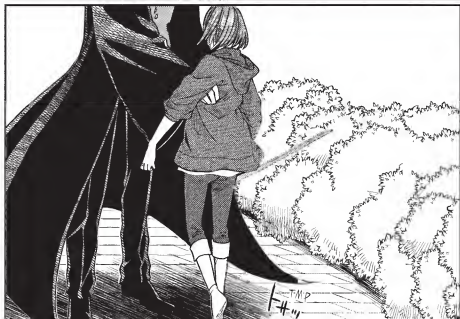
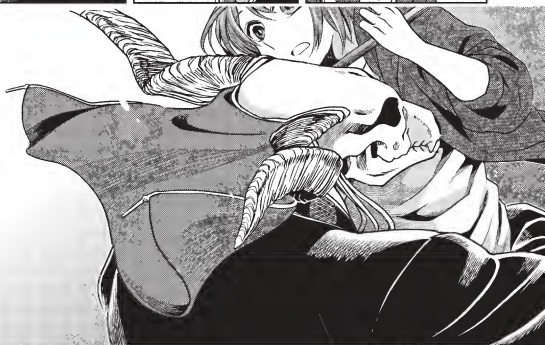
SO I
ASKED
THE
NEIGH-
BORS
FOR HELP..



I-I
FINISHED
MY WAND,
SO I
WANTED
TO COME
STRAIGHT
HOME.

WELL
...

UM...

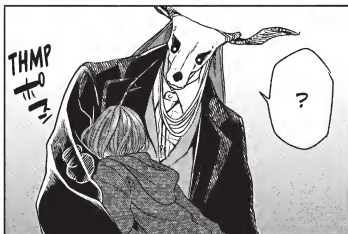


YOU DO
THE MOST
FOOL-
HARDY
THINGS
SOME-
TIMES.

HON-
ESTLY!









THERE'S
A SCARY
THING...!

MOMMY,
LOOK!

MOM-
MY!

Chapter 19: It is a long lane that has no turnings.



TRY NOT
TO ACT
FRIGHT-
ENED.

IF IT
SEES THAT
YOU'RE
AFRAID,
IT'LL COME
CLOSER.

YES.
I SEE
IT.



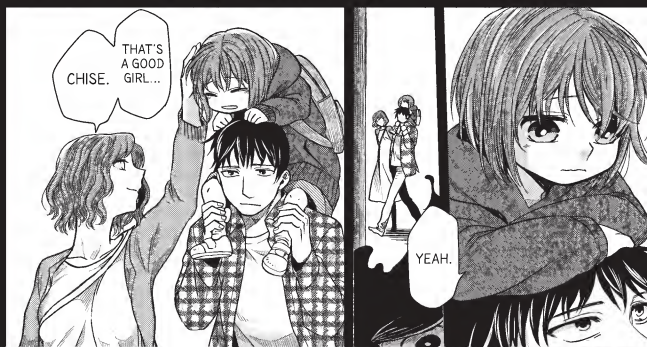
DON'T
WORRY,
SWEETIE.
DADDY'S
HERE.
YOU'RE
SAFE.

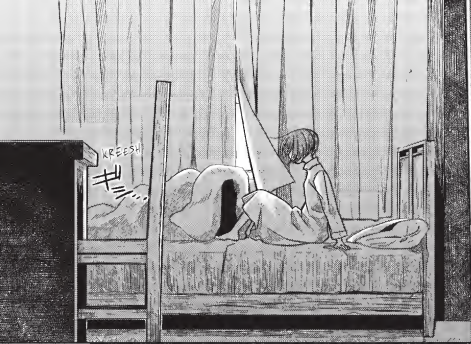


BUT
IT'S SO
SCARY...!

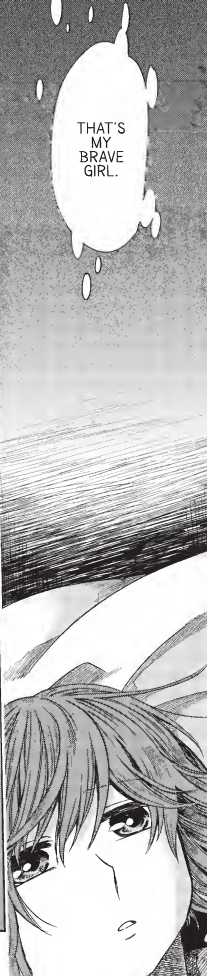
CLUTCH







THAT'S
MY
BRAVE
GIRL.





Chapter 19: It is a long lane that has no turning.



HEY,
RUTH.

MORN-
ING.
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

BAA

BAA



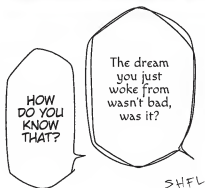
Good
morning,
Chise.



UH-
HUH.
SO WE
HAVE A
PROB-
LEM,
HUH?

I hope
they
disperse
soon. I'm
having
trouble
resisting the
urge to
chase them.

We have
a small
problem.



HOW
DO YOU
KNOW
THAT?

The dream
you just
woke from
wasn't bad,
was it?

SHFL



CHISE!



.....



I expect all these things gathering outside your window are what inspired your dream.

I'm your *familiar*. Our bond runs deep.



ELIAS!



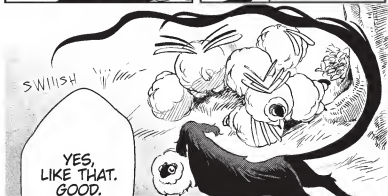
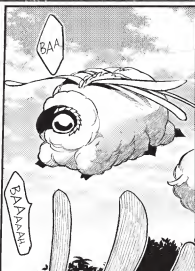
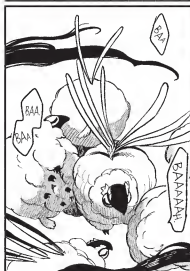
I'M GLAD YOU WOKE AFTER ONLY TWO DAYS.

GOOD MORNING! UM...
WHAT'S ALL THIS?



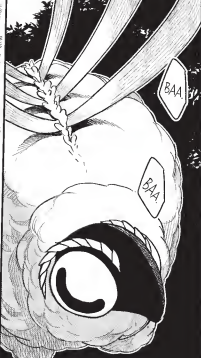
GOOD MORNING.

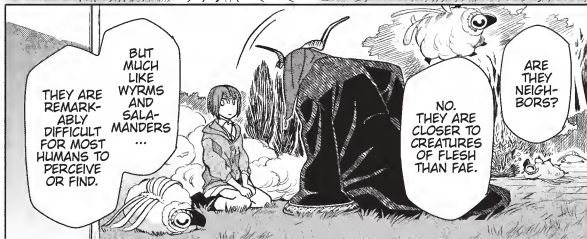
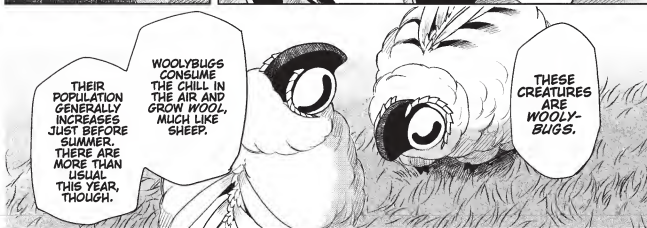
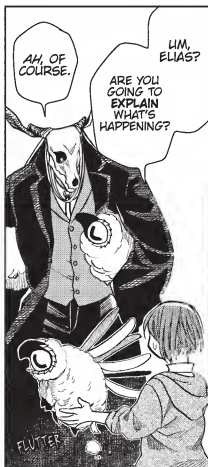
IT'S
SHEARING
TIME.



YES,
LIKE THAT.
GOOD.
GOOD.

SNIP
SNIP







I DARE-SAY IT WOULD HELP YOU SLEEP WELL.

YOU COULD USE ANY LEFT-OVERS TO STUFF A PILLOW.



I SEE.

POOF!

ANGELICA ALWAYS ASKS ME TO BRING SOME TO HER.

THEIR FLEECE IS EXCELLENT FOR MAKING MAGICAL CRAFTS AND OTHER ITEMS.



YOU MUSTN'T TAKE CHILDREN'S RHYMES LIGHTLY.

EVEN SIMPLE WORDPLAY CAN HOLD POWER.

"ONE SHEEP, TWO SHEEP..."

"TIME TO SLEEP..."



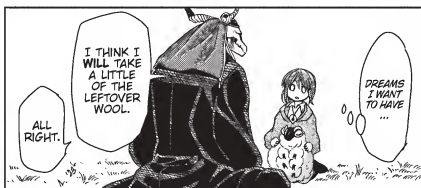
SORRY! YOU MIGHT'VE MENTIONED THAT SOONER!

OH!
DONT SHEAR THEIR LEGS. JUST THE BODY.



THEY ARE OFTEN INVOKED BEFORE DIVINING DREAMS, AND THEY MAY HELP ONE EXPERIENCE A SPECIFIC DESIRED DREAM.

SHEEP HAVE LONG BEEN STRONGLY ASSOCIATED WITH SLEEP.



I THINK I WILL TAKE A LITTLE OF THE LEFTOVER WOOL.

ALL RIGHT.

DREAMS I WANT TO HAVE ...



AH!
AND...



NO, NO.
YOU STAY
AND
PRACTICE.



OH!
LET
ME--

I'LL GO
FETCH
A BAG
FOR IT.

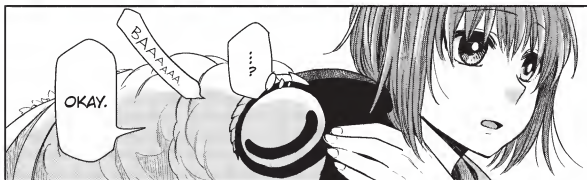
WHAT AN
IMPRES-
SIVE
AMOUNT
THIS
YEAR.

FLOOF



IF YOU
SEE ONE
THAT
LOOKS
SLIGHTLY
DIFFER-
ENT...

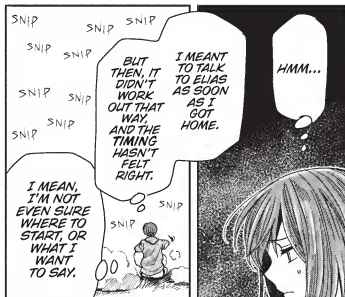
COME AND
TELL ME
BEFORE
YOU TOUCH
IT. ALL
RIGHT?

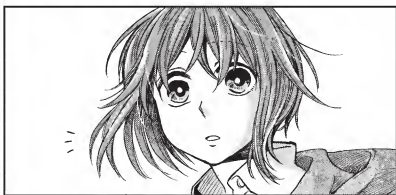


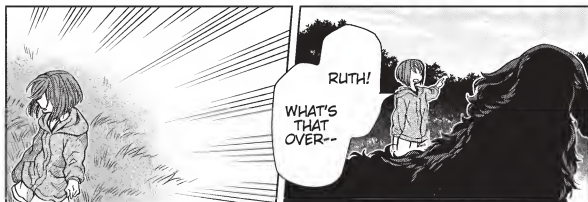
OKAY.

BAAAAA

...



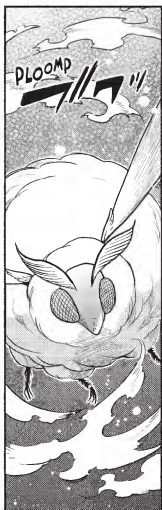


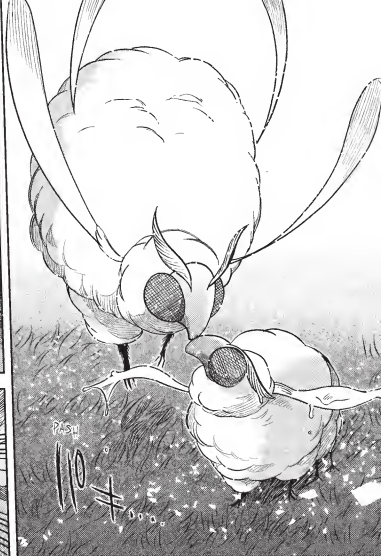


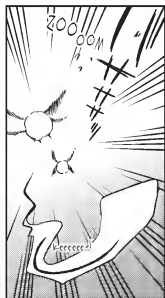


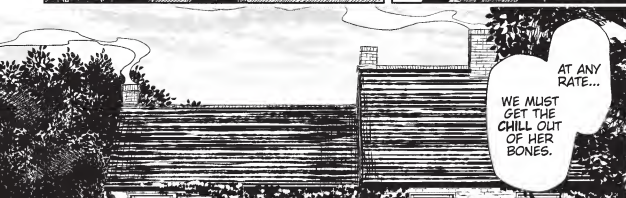
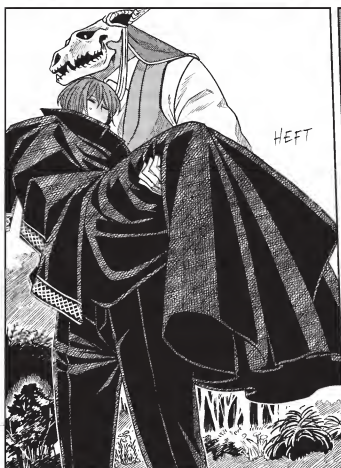
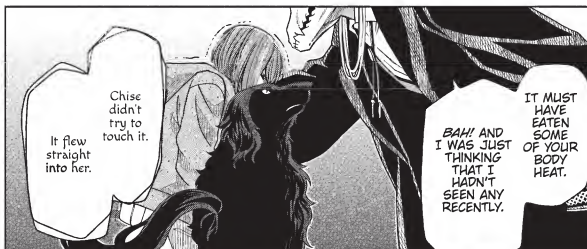


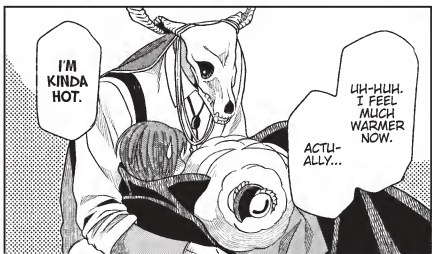
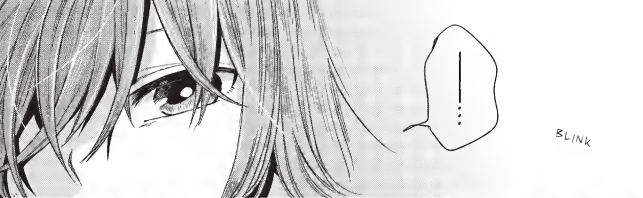
AN
EGG...?!













ER,
I...I'LL
GET UP
NOW...

NO
NEED TO
APOLOGIZE.
IT FLEW
AT YOU.

YOU
ONLY DID
WHAT
YOU
COULD.

SHFL



UM...!

TH-
THANK
YOU!
AND I'M
SORRY!

Shoo,
naww,
Shoo!



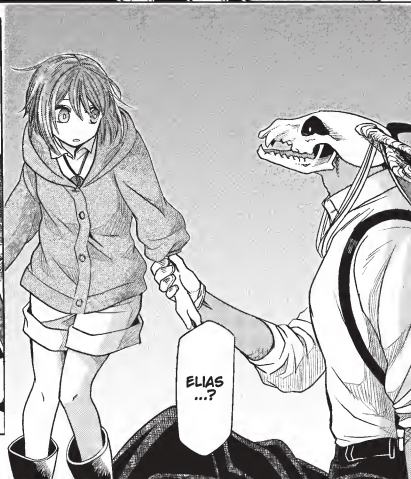
TUe



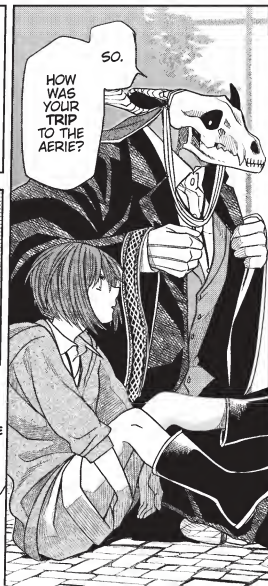
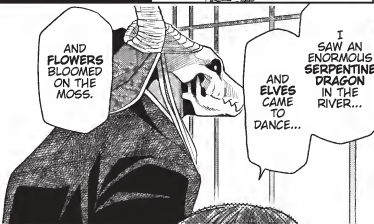
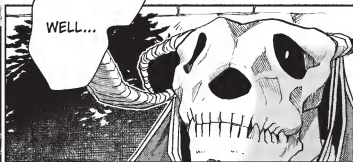
DO YOU
KNOW
WHY THAT
MIGHT
BE?

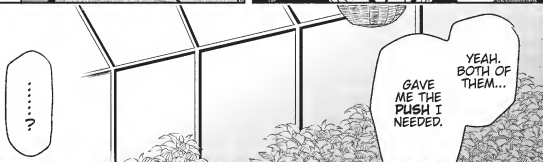
WHILE
YOU
WERE
GONE,
THE
WHOLE
HOUSE
FELT
COLD.

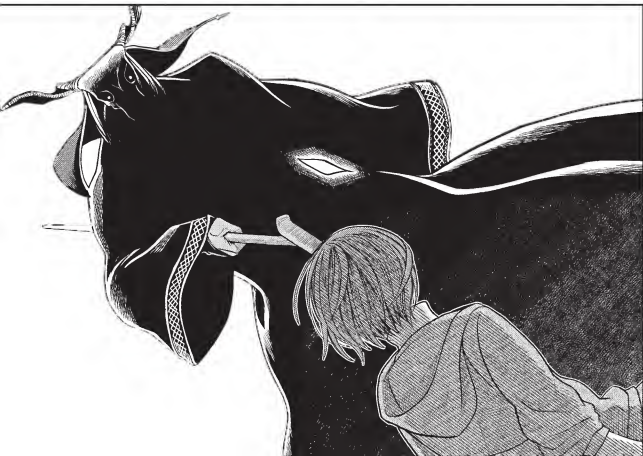
BUT
SITTING
AS WE
WERE
JUST
NOW FELT
WARM.

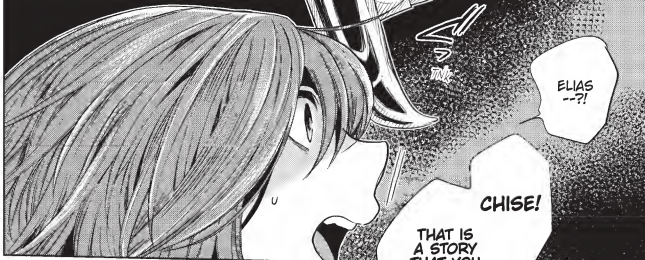


ELIAS
...?





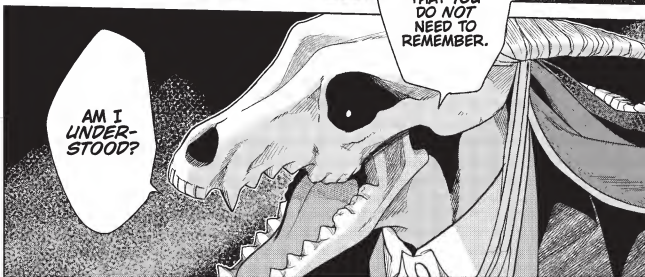




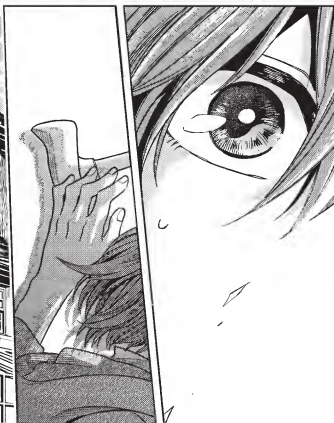
ELIAS
--?!

CHISE!

THAT IS
A STORY
THAT YOU
DO NOT
NEED TO
REMEMBER.

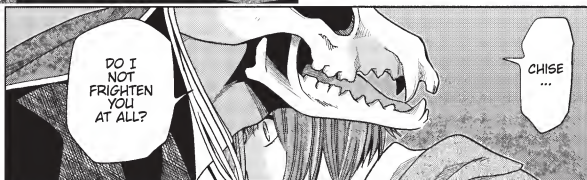


AM I
UNDER-
STOOD?



NO--!







AM I
NOT
TERRIBLE
AND
FRIGHT-
ENING
TO A
HUMAN?



MY
MOM.



MY
DAD.

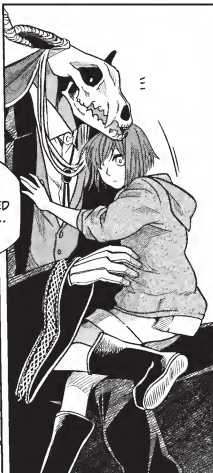


AND A
LITTLE
BABY
BROTHER.



I
USED
TO...

HAVE
A
FAMILY.



IT WAS
SCARY,
BUT WHEN
DAD WAS
AROUND,
I FELT
SAFE.

AS FAR
BACK AS I
REMEMBER,
INHUMAN
THINGS WERE
ALWAYS
COMING
AFTER ME.

AND
THEY
WERE SO
IN LOVE
WITH EACH
OTHER.

MY
PARENTS
BOTH
HAD THE
SIGHT,
LIKE ME.

AND MY
MOM GOT
SO TIRED
AFTER
THAT.

BECAUSE
OF ME, THERE
WERE ALWAYS
TERRIFYING
THINGS
COMING AT
US, DAY
AND NIGHT.

BUT
ONE DAY
HE JUST...
TOOK MY
BROTHER
AND **LEFT**.

AND
...

I GUESS,
ONE DAY,
SHE
JUST
COULDN'T
TAKE IT.

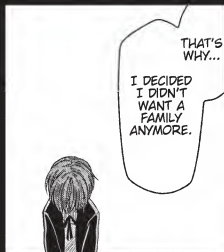
SHE
DECIDED
TO DIE
AND NOT
TAKE ME
WITH HER.



I
LOVED
THEM
SO
MUCH....!

I
LOVED
MY
FAMILY.

ELIAS
...



THAT'S
WHY...

I DECIDED
I DIDN'T
WANT A
FAMILY
ANYMORE.



BUT
THEY ALL
LEFT ME
BEHIND.
THEY
DIDN'T
WANT ME
WITH
THEM.

I WAS TOO
AFRAID THE
SOMETHING
WOULD
HAPPEN ALL
OVER AGAIN.

YOU
CAME.
YOU SAID
I WAS
FAMILY.

BUT
THEN...





I MIGHT
WANT
TO TAKE
ANOTHER
CRACK
AT THIS
"FAMILY"
THING.

I
STARTED
THINKING...

WHEN HE
TALKED ABOUT
THE FUTURE,
I WAS ALWAYS
THERE.

I WAS
ALWAYS
PART
OF IT.



IT
MADE
ME SO
HAPPY.

SO WHEN
MASTER
LINDEL TOLD
ME STORIES
ABOUT WHAT
YOU WERE
LIKE LONG
AGO...



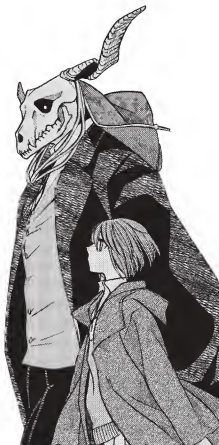
BUT YOU
WEREN'T
EVER
WILLING
TO TALK
ABOUT
YOURSELF.

I STARTED
TO THINK
I MIGHT
ACTUALLY
HAVE A
FUTURE...
AS LONG AS
I WAS WITH
HIM.

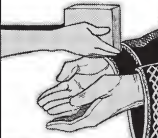


I'M NOT
SCARED
OF YOU,
ELIAS.

I'M
SCARED
OF YOU
ABANDONING
ME.





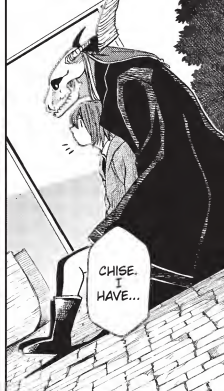


EVEN IF I
WISHED TO
SAY THE
SAME WORDS
BACK TO
YOU, THEY
WOULD
BE LIES.



SAID
THIS
BEFORE,
BUT...

I DON'T
KNOW
HOW TO
EMPATHIZE
WITH
HUMANS.



CHISE.
I
HAVE...

I CAN
RECITE
THESE
FACTS.
THEY ARE
THINGS I
KNOW...

AND A
HUMAN'S
DEATH IS
BAD.

A CHILD'S
BIRTH IS
A GOOD
THING...

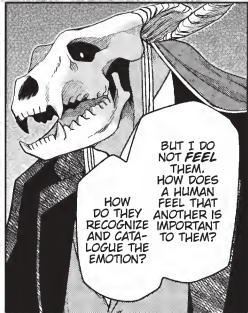
I KNOW
FEAR MAY
CAUSE A
HUMAN TO
FIGHT OR
FLEE.

AND
TEARS
MEAN
SADNESS.

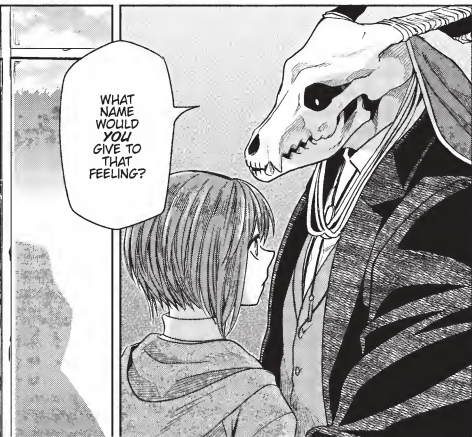
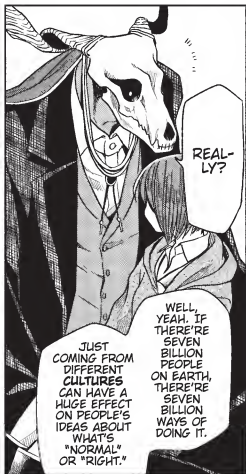
I KNOW
A SMILE
MEANS
HAPPINESS...



THAT'S...
HARD
TO SAY,
HONESTLY.
DIFFERENT
PEOPLE
WILL
UNDERSTAND
AND REACT
TO THE
SAME THING
DIFFERENTLY.



BUT I DO
NOT FEEL
THEM.
HOW DOES
A HUMAN
FEEL THAT
ANOTHER IS
IMPORTANT
TO THEM?
HOW
DO THEY
RECOGNIZE
AND CATA-
LOGUE THE
EMOTION?





HE'S
JUST THE
SIZE OF
AN ADULT.
THAT'S ALL.

HE
REALLY
IS STILL
PRACTICALLY
A CHILD.

I
THOUGHT
SO.



IT'S LIKE
I'M YOUR
TEACHER
WHEN IT
COMES TO
HUMAN
THINGS.

I
GUESS
...



I AM VERY
PLEASED THAT
I BOUGHT
YOU. NOW I
CAN SAY I'VE
LEARNED AT
LEAST ONE
NEW THING.

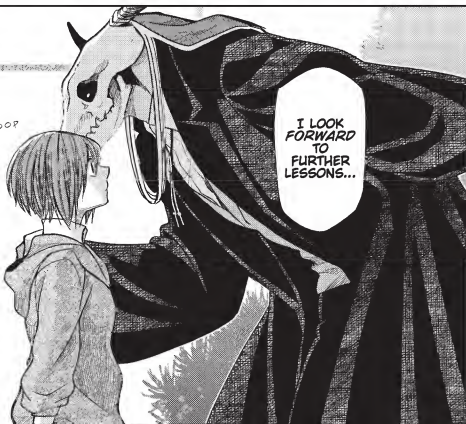
YES.

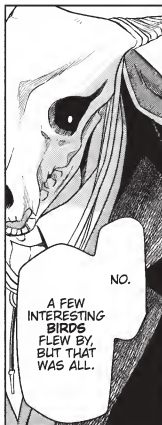


TEACHER
OF
HUMAN
WAYS.

BOOP

I LOOK
FORWARD
TO
FURTHER
LESSONS...





NO.

A FEW
INTERESTING
BIRDS
FLEW BY,
BUT THAT
WAS ALL.



BUT...

HE STILL
AVOIDS
TALKING
ABOUT
HIMSELF
AS MUCH
AS HE
CAN.

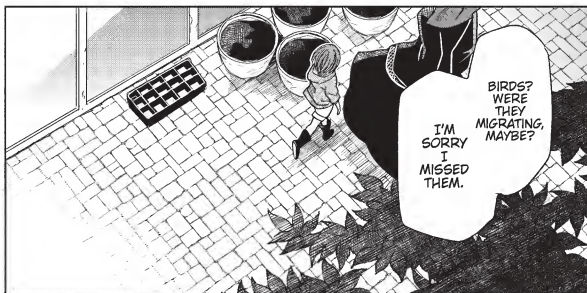


DID
ANYTHING
UNUSUAL
OR
INTERESTING
HAPPEN
WHILE I
WAS AWAY?



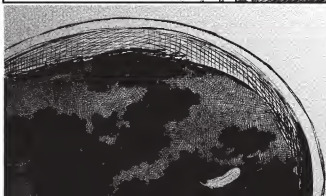
I LOOK
FORWARD
TO MORE
LESSONS,
TOO...

TEACHER
OF
MAGIC.



BIRDS?
WERE
THEY
MIGRATING,
MAYBE?

I'M
SORRY
I
MISSED
THEM.



KA-
CHAK

The
Ancient
Magus' Bride

The
Ancient
Magus' Bride

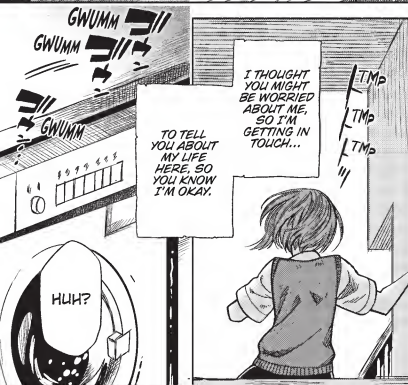
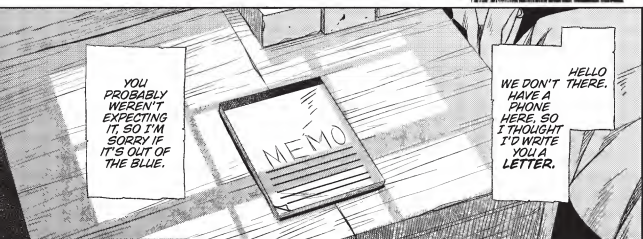


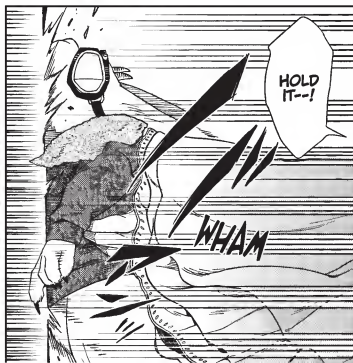
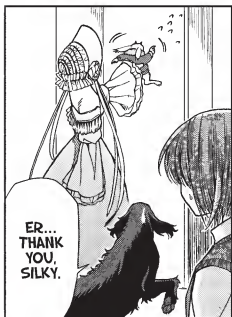
Chapter 20: East, west, home's best.

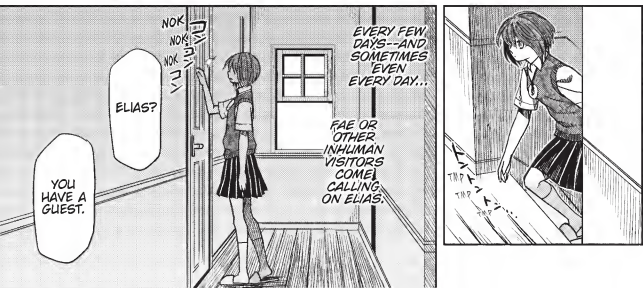


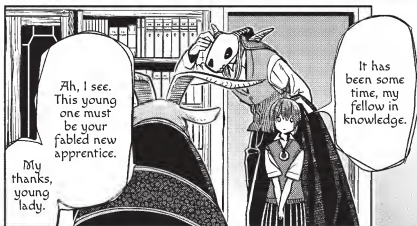
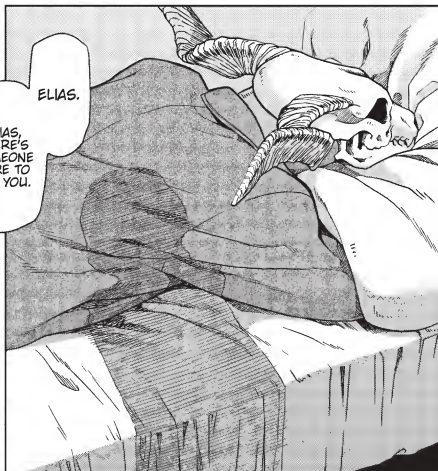
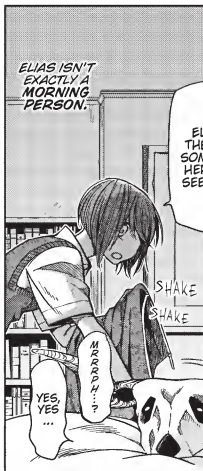
Chapter 20:
East, west, home's best.





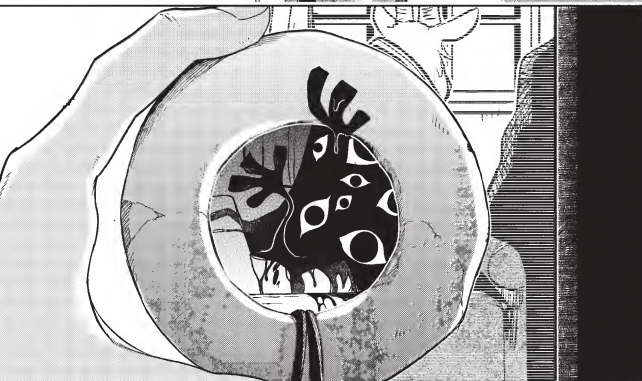


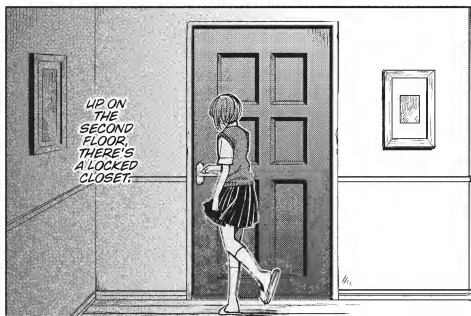
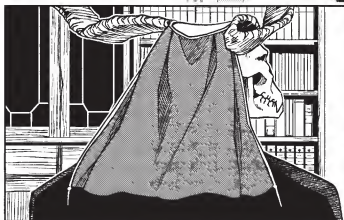


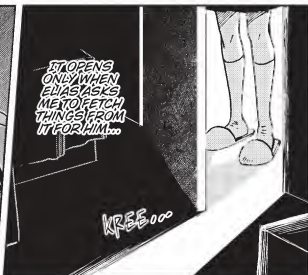


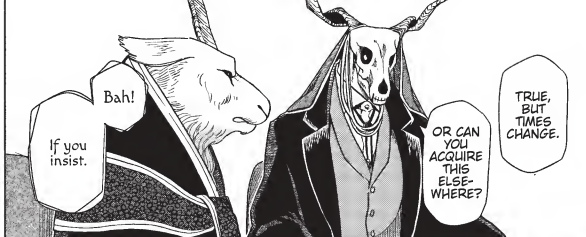
krek



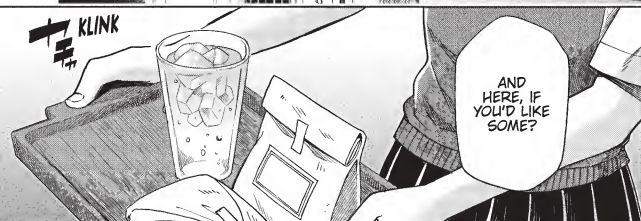
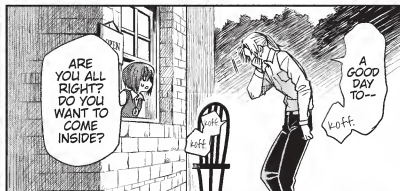


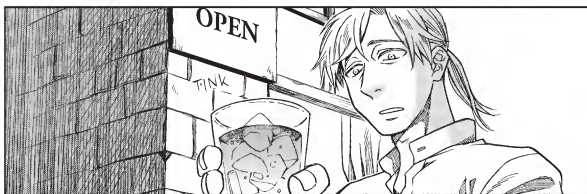


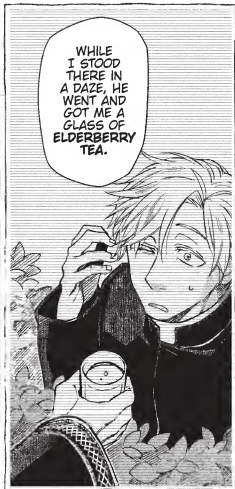
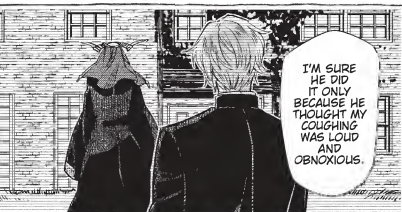


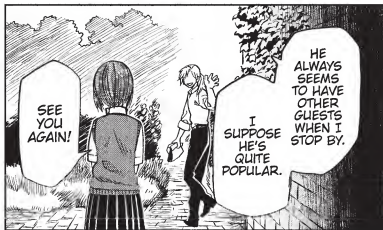
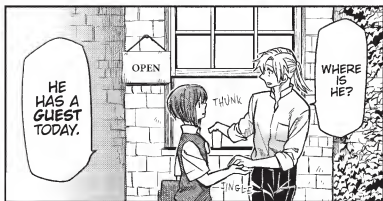
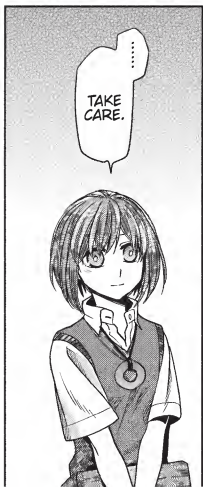
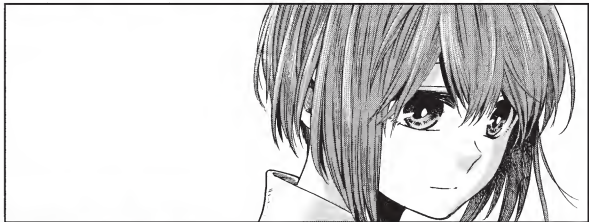


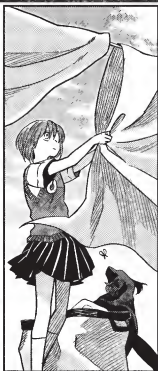
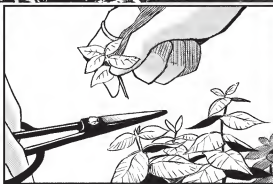
A WHOLE
VARIETY
OF PEOPLE
STOP BY TO
ASK FOR
MEDICINE.





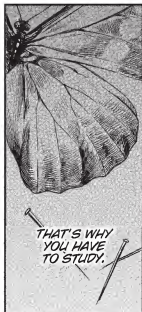




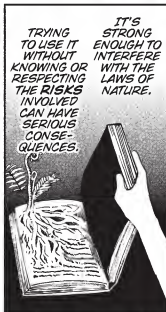




"MAGIC" IS
WHEN WE
DO SOME-
THING BY
BORROWING
POWER FROM
FAERIES AND
SPIRITS.



THAT'S WHY
YOU HAVE
TO STUDY.



IT'S
STRONG
ENOUGH TO
INTERFERE
WITH THE
LAWS OF
NATURE.

TRYING
TO USE IT
WITHOUT
KNOWING OR
RESPECTING
THE RISKS
INVOLVED
CAN HAVE
SERIOUS
CONSE-
QUENCES.



THEN
SUBMERGE
A SEASONAL
FLOWER AND
A FOUR-LEAF
CLOVER IN IT,
AND SET IT ON
A WINDOWSILL
FOR FOUR
NIGHTS, FACING
EACH CARDINAL
DIRECTION
ONCE.

PLACE
A FLASK
OF WATER
CONTAINING
A NUGGET
OF GOLD IN
THE LIGHT OF
THE WANING
GIBBOUS
MOON...

WOW,
MAKING
FAIRY
OINTMENT
IS A LOT
OF WORK.



AND TO
PROTECT
YOUR-
SELF.

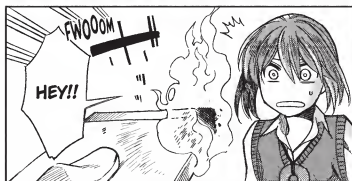
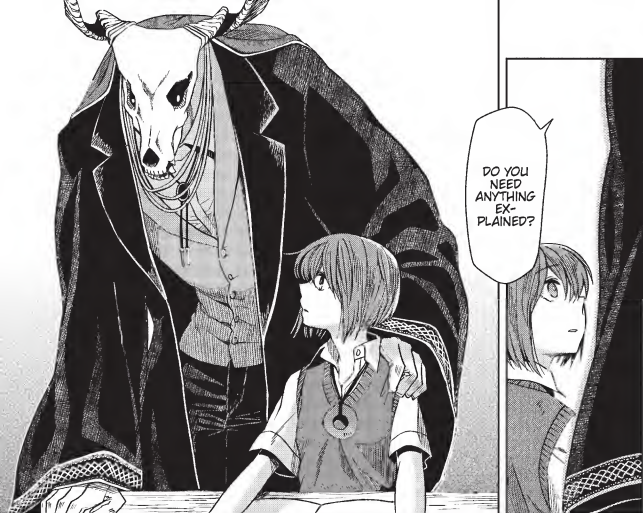
YOU NEED
TO LEARN
SO YOU CAN
USE MAGIC
TO HELP
OTHERS...



KREK

KREK





MIGHT
I
SEE
IT?

YOU KNOW,
I'VE YET TO
GET A GOOD
LOOK AT
YOUR WAND.



HERE.

LOVELY.

IT IS
THE SAME
COLOR
AS YOUR
HAIR.

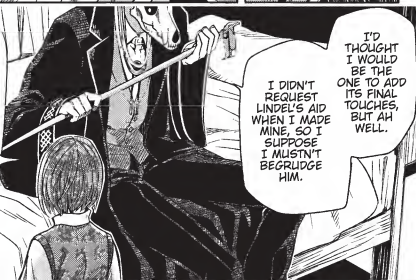


YES. IT'S
CONSIDERED
WISE FOR
ANOTHER
HAND TO BE
INVOLVED IN
A WAND'S
CREATION.

ARE THE
FINISHING
TOUCHES
ALWAYS
DONE BY
SOMEONE
ELSE?

I DIDN'T
REQUEST
LINDEL'S AID
WHEN I MADE
MINE, SO I
SUPPOSE
I MUSTN'T
BEGRUDGE
HIM.

I'D
THOUGHT
I WOULD
BE THE
ONE TO ADD
ITS FINAL
TOUCHES,
BUT AH
WELL.



WHY DIDN'T
YOU ASK
FOR LINDEL'S
HELP WHEN
YOU MADE
YOURS?



THUS
ENSURING
THE
FLEDGLING
MAGE IS
PROPERLY
PREPARED
FOR THE
ROAD
AHEAD.



THAT'S
WHY IT IS
TRADITIONAL
FOR ELDERS
TO AID
IN AND
BLESS THE
CREATION
OF A
WAND...

WANDS
ARE AS
STAVES--
SOLID TOOLS
WE MAGES
RELY UPON
TO HELP US
WALK OUR
LONG, LONG
JOURNEYS.



THEY SEEM
TO THINK
OF EACH
OTHER AS
FRIENDS,
BUT
THEY'RE
NEVER ON
THE SAME
PAGE, ARE
THEY?



I'VE ONLY
BEEN SURE
OF WHERE
TO FIND
HIM FOR
THE PAST
CENTURY
OR SO.

BECAUSE I
HADN'T THE
FAINTEST
CLUE
WHERE
HE WAS.

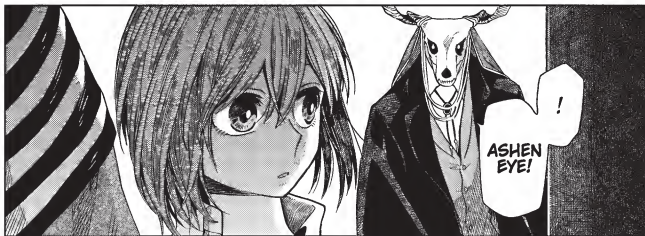


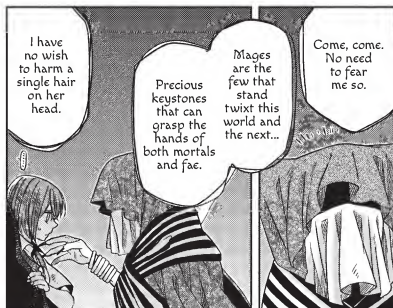
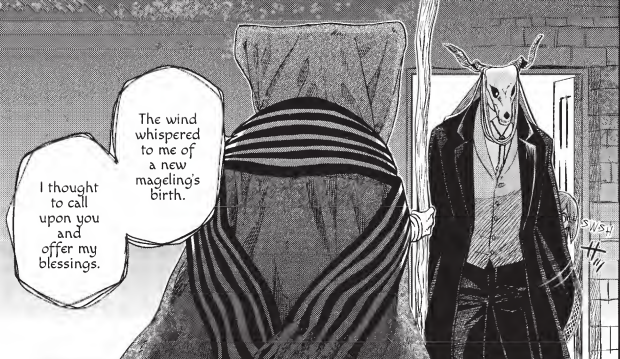
YOU'LL
NEED TO
WAIT A
LONG
TIME FOR
THAT.



I'LL
COME
ASK YOU
FOR THE
FINISHING
TOUCHES.

WELL,
IF I EVER
HAPPEN
TO NEED
TO MAKE
A NEW
ONE...



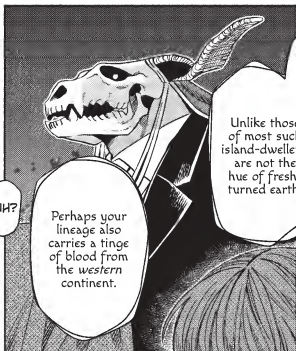




I, UM,
DON'T
KNOW
MUCH
ABOUT MY
FAMILY...

I...I'M
SORRY,
BUT...

HUH?



Perhaps your
lineage also
carries a tinge
of blood from
the western
continent.

But your
hair and
eyes...

Unlike those
of most such
island-dwellers,
are not the
hue of fresh-
turned earth.



But matter
little to the
individual.

Blood ties
are vital
among a
herd...

No
matter.

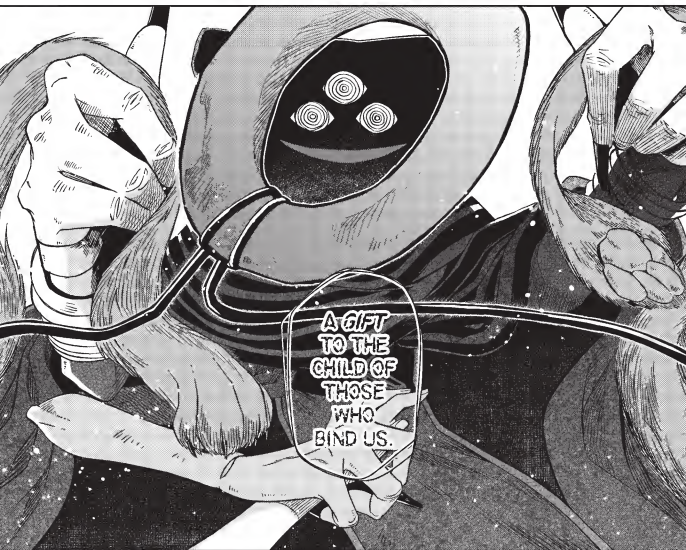
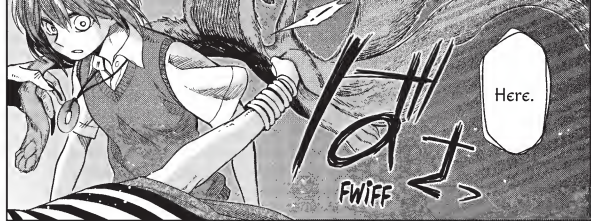
No
matter.

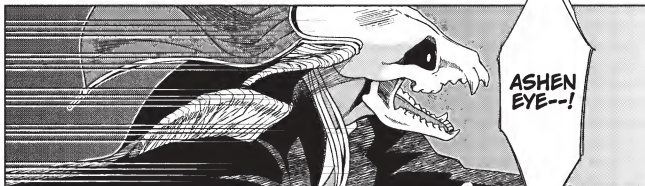


To spend
too much time
contemplating
the meaningless
details of life.
Far better to
let instinct
and nature
guide you.

It is
a par-
ticularly
human
foible...







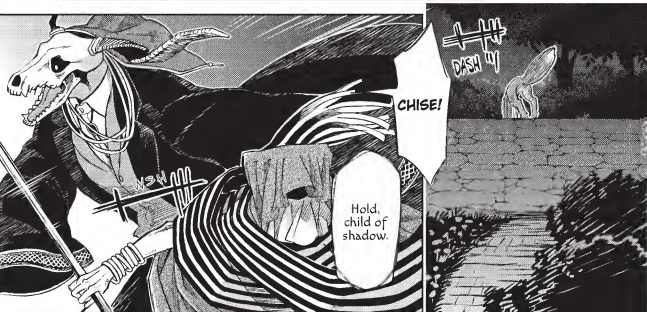
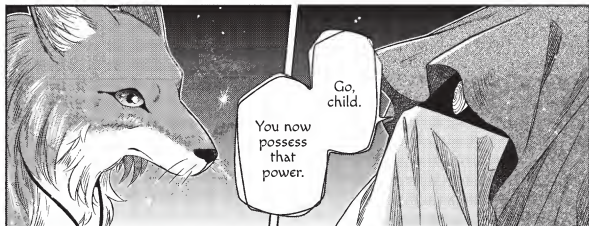
ASHEN
EYE--!



CLINK



SHINK

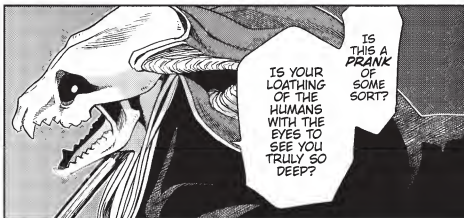


Or have you forgotten that they, too, were once called our kindly neighbors...?



IS YOUR LOATHING OF THE HUMANS WITH THE EYES TO SEE YOU TRULY SO DEEP?

IS THIS A PRANK OF SOME SORT?



Human, yes. But far, far closer to us than true mortals.

After all, the sleigh beggy have always been that type of creature.

No, no. 'tis but grand-motherly concern.



Her kind's existence is so fleeting.

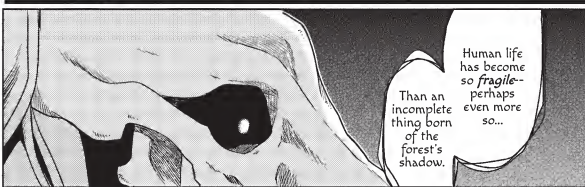
And if she is to be at your side, would it not be best for her to be equally inhuman?

If this is the home she yearns for, she'll return without your pursuit.



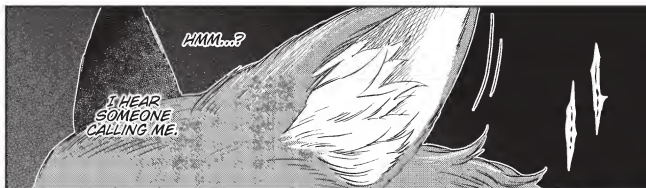
Than an incomplete thing born of the forest's shadow.

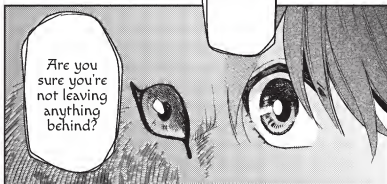
Human life has become so fragile-- perhaps even more so...











Chise.





There are still many things I don't understand.

Without you here to teach me, I won't know what to do.



Chise.

Wait.

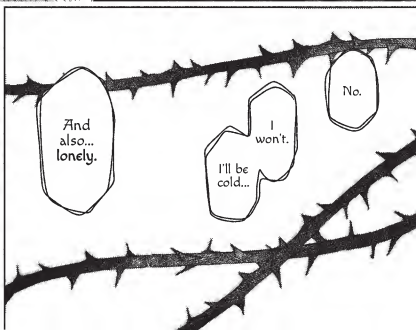


You won't...?

NUZZLE



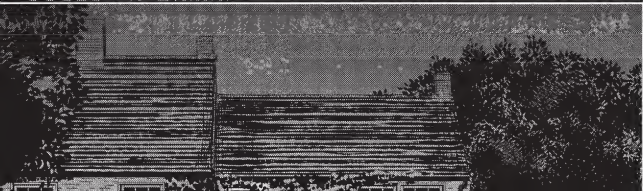
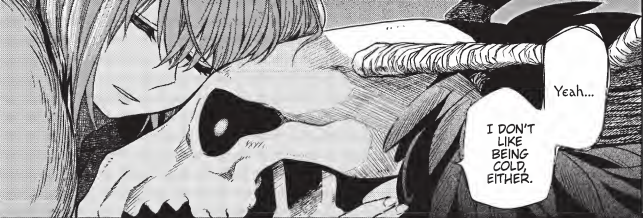
SNFF

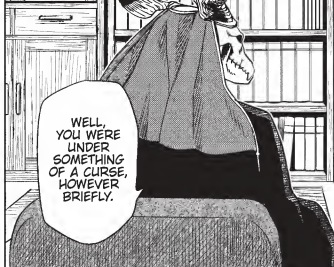


And also... lonely.

I won't.
I'll be cold...

No.

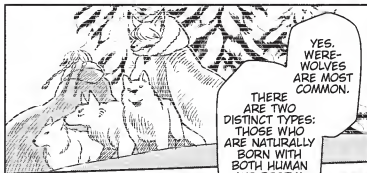




WELL, YOU WERE UNDER SOMETHING OF A CURSE, HOWEVER BRIEFLY.

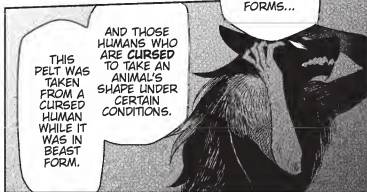


UGH. MY MIND STILL FEELS SO FOGGY.

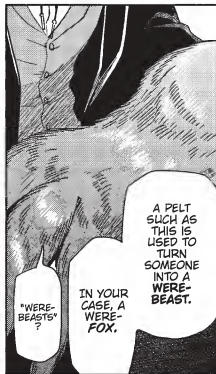


YES. WERE-WOLVES ARE MOST COMMON.

THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT TYPES: THOSE WHO ARE NATURALLY BORN WITH BOTH HUMAN AND BESTIAL FORMS...



AND THOSE HUMANS WHO ARE CURSED TO TAKE AN ANIMAL'S SHAPE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. THIS PELT WAS TAKEN FROM A CURSED HUMAN WHILE IT WAS IN BEAST FORM.



A PELT SUCH AS THIS IS USED TO TURN SOMEONE INTO A WERE-BEAST.

IN YOUR CASE, A WERE-FOX.

"WERE-BEASTS"?



SO, THAT WAS TODAY.

I WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A FOX.

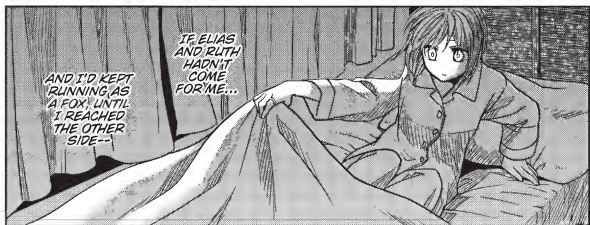


I DON'T THINK I WANT TO USE IT AGAIN.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO USE IT AGAIN, LET ME KNOW.

IT CAN BE CONVENIENT IF YOU GET THE HANG OF IT, YES, BUT STILL! IT'S HARDLY SOMETHING TO GIVE AS A GIFT.

Ashley's behavior was nothing short of kidnapping! And then it vanished! (sigh) The new girl.





To be continued...

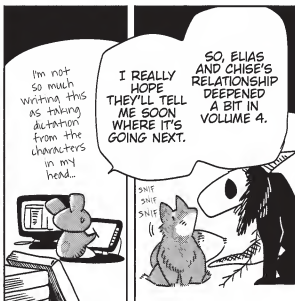
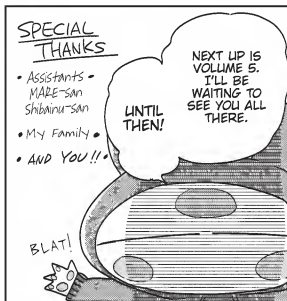
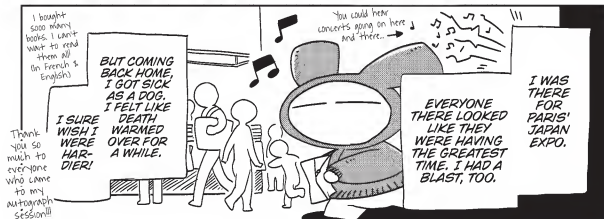


I NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS THOUGHT THERE'D EVER BE A VOLUME 4!

IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU READERS HAVE SUPPORTED ME SO GENEROUSLY. THANK YOU.

Volume 4 is out!

It's so hot out I'm melting.



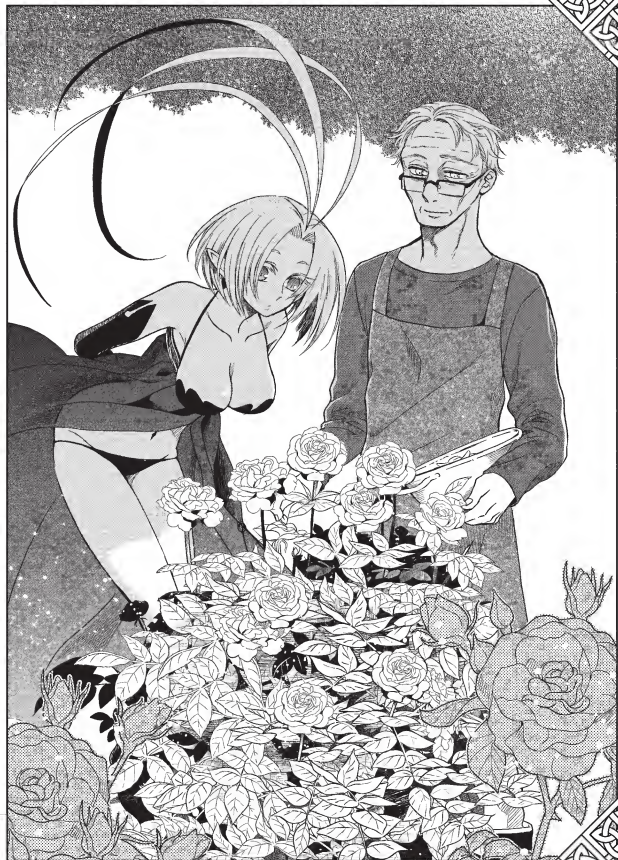
A fae begs for help,
but what can a young girl do
to save the fairy's lover...?

Thanks to her time living with Elias,
Chise has finally begun to move past the fear
and loneliness she struggled with in her past.

And thanks to Chise, Elias has finally
learned to put a name to one of his emotions,
and the world seems more beautiful to him.

But one day a leannán sídhe comes
to Chise begging for help.
What--if anything--can Chise do...?

The Ancient Magus' Bride Volume 5
Coming Soon!

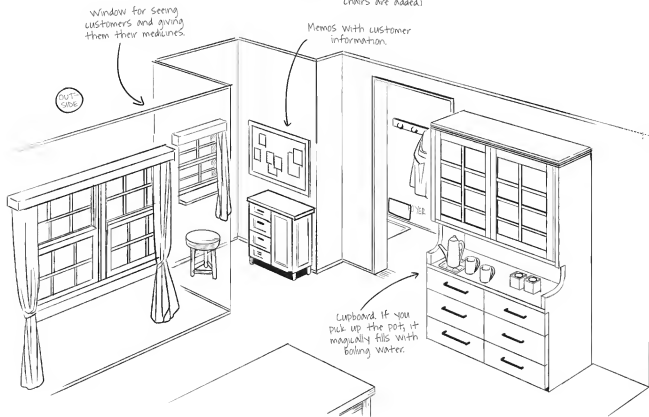
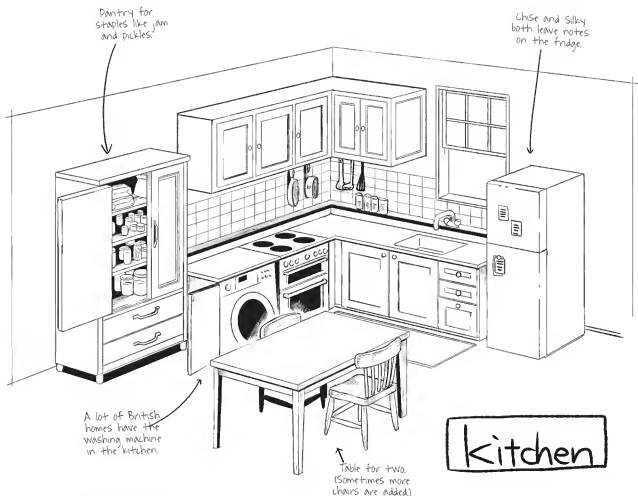


Silky's Diary



Because the
lady of the
house won't
let me play
with hers.





SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

The Ancient Magus' Bride

VOLUME 4

story and art by KORE YAMAZAKI

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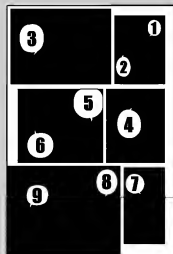
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from **right to left**, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



"I am not alone."

Chise has been summoned to the Dragon Aerie to begin crafting her very own wand, but her journey has more to offer than she had anticipated: magical wonders, enlightening visions, and perhaps most importantly, insight into Elias' past and the secrets he has been reluctant to reveal about himself.

Yet while Chise finds some answers about the inhuman mage's history, mysterious beings are displaying an unexpected interest in Chise herself.



Rated: TEEN

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